

## Israeli allies threaten Beirut

MARJAYOUN (AP) — The commander of Israel's surrogate militia in South Lebanon Wednesday warned of "grave consequences" if the government continues to tighten the noose on the population of an Israeli-occupied border enclave. Gen. Antoine Lahd, commander of the 2,300-strong South Lebanon Army (SLA), said he did not say what actions he would take. His comments came as Israeli gunboats cruising off the southern coast enforced a two-week-old fishing blockade on the port of Tyre north of the "security zone."

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## Palestinians form anti-Arafat group

NABLUS (R) — Palestinian nationalists and Islamists announced on Wednesday the formation of the first Arab coalition in the occupied West Bank opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord. Bassam Al Shakra, a former mayor of Nablus, said the new "Palestinian Coalition" was calling for the resignation of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "This is the only logical thing to do after his complete failure," said Mr. Shakra, who lost his legs in a bombing carried out by Jewish terrorists in 1980. Mr. Shakra told Reuters the new opposition group sought to "reunite" the Palestinian people under one leadership and one institution after the PLO lost its title of representative of all Palestinians. Palestinian sources said the group, which did not include members of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction or its rival, Hamas, was the first in the West Bank to form a coalition publicly opposed to the peace process.

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## Jordan, Bahrain draft media accord

MANAMA (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Information Ministry Secretary-General Nayef Mola on Wednesday signed a draft executive programme with Dr. Halaq Umran, the Bahraini secretary of the Bahraini Ministry of Information to launch cooperation in information-related fields. The draft agreement would be endorsed by the governments of the two countries during a visit to Jordan next month by Bahrain's Information Minister Tareq Al Muayad at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart Khaled Karaki. The draft programme provides for the two countries to exchange radio and television messages, hold training programmes for personnel working for information services, coordinate in the use of satellites for radio and television broadcasts, exchange of radio and television news and other programmes, conduct joint programmes production work, coordinate work in publications and the work of the national news agencies and exchange publications and information booklets and media expertise. The Jordanian delegation was later received by Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, the emir of Bahrain, who voiced pride in the Jordanian-Bahraini ties.

## Iran denies talks with Israel on Arab

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Wednesday denied it had engaged in talks with Israel for the release of Ron Arad, an Israeli airman captured in Lebanon in 1986. The Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper reported Tuesday that Israeli and Iranian negotiators have been meeting in separate rooms at the German chancellery in Bonn, with German mediators shuttling between them, to discuss Arad. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi as saying Tuesday that no direct or indirect negotiations with Israel through Germany have taken place.

## Iran blasts U.N. human rights report

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran alleged Wednesday that a recent U.N. report accusing it of human rights violations was "spiteful" and based on information from groups hostile to the Islamic republic. Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the report repeated "earlier spiteful and contradictory claims" made by the United Nations. In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission Monday, Salvadoran Jurist Reynaldo Galindo Phol said Iran continued to rely heavily on executions, torture, repression and religious persecution to enforce obedience to its Islamic revolutionary ideals. "This report has been prepared indirectly on the basis of groups hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran," the radio said.

## Arab League opens meeting on Somalia

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League opened an international conference Wednesday on how to help Somalia after United Nations troops complete their withdrawal next month. Participating in the two-day meeting are representatives of the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and some of the 22 members of the Arab League. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary-general, told the conference that all Arab League resolutions stress "the importance of supporting the Somali people and continuing peaceful attempts to close viewpoints between the warring factions." Dr. Abdul Meguid warned of the "dangerous bend" that the Somali crisis has reached (see page 12).

# PLO seeks external help to salvage autonomy accord

## Cairo statement puts off decision on talks, calls for Arab summit and world pressure on Israel

Combined agency dispatches

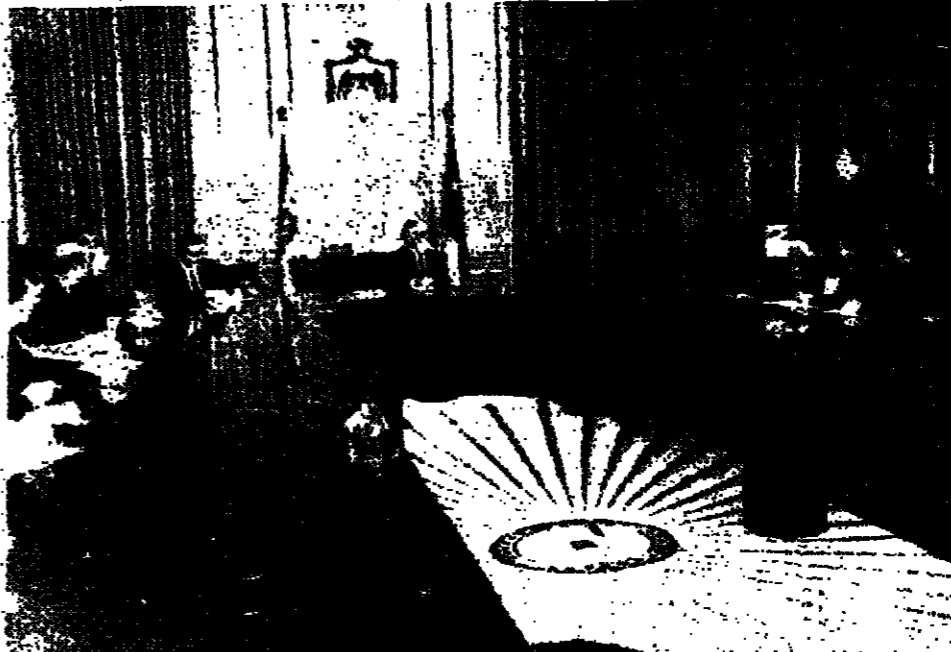
CAIRO — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) turned to the international community on Wednesday to help salvage deadlocked autonomy negotiations as a last resort before deciding on whether to break off the peace process with Israel. PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who chaired a two-day crisis meeting of his Executive Committee, delayed a final decision until the committee meets again in early March. "Certain members, including myself, demanded the pure and simple suspension of negotiations with Israel, but the final decision was postponed until the next meeting," said Samir Ghosheh, a member of the committee. "I don't think the Executive Committee adopted the necessary measures to face up to Israel's intransigence," he said. The PLO called for an Arab summit and interna-

tional pressure on Israel to implement self-rule, in a statement issued after the meeting in the Egyptian capital Tuesday and Wednesday. The committee said it was "important to examine the stagnation in the peace process at an Arab meeting of the highest level and as quickly as possible." Committee members would contact the European Union, the United States, Russia, Norway, Islamic and non-aligned countries and address the U.N. Security Council, it said. Washington and Moscow are co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991, while Oslo staged secret talks which led the PLO and Israel to sign the autonomy accords in September 1993. Mr. Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia later Wednesday for talks with King Fahd. Palestinian autonomy negotiator Nabil Shaath explained: "We can not take a

unilateral decision on the negotiations. We must first consult PLO leaders, our Arab partners and the sponsors of the peace process." The results of consultations would be judged at the next committee meeting in Tunis and "in the light of this the committee meeting will take its final decision on a possible break with the peace process," Mr. Ghosheh said. He acknowledged it would be difficult to convene an Arab summit but it was feasible, while other PLO officials said it could be a mini-summit or a foreign ministers' meeting. "Arabs will be asked not just to support the Palestinian position but also not to press ahead with normalisation with Israel," said Mr. Ghosheh. "We cannot accept them giving Israel what it wants while this state refuses to honour the accords it has signed." The Executive Committee session — for which only Mr.

Arafat supporters turned up — also decided to resume dialogue with Palestinian opponents of the peace process. Mr. Arafat would head a committee tasked with opening a "comprehensive dialogue with all the Palestinian forces and personalities," the PLO statement said. But headline opposition groups based in Damascus refused Wednesday to respond to the PLO's call until the autonomy accord was scrapped. Here are the main points of the PLO statement: **PEACE PROCESS:** The Executive Committee said it was "important to examine the stagnation in the peace process at an Arab meeting of the highest level and as quickly as possible." The PLO will also "begin immediate contacts with the European Union, the United States, Russia, Norway, the group of Islamic countries

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with a delegation representing the American Jewish Congress (Petra photo)

## King: Jordan opted for peace in best interest of region, people

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that Jordan had opted for peace for the best interest of the peoples of the region and their future generations. "We will seek to transcend the negative traces left over from the struggle that plagued the region, causing a great deal of suffering for its people over the past 50 years," said the King in a meeting at the Royal Court with a delegation from the American Jewish Congress. King Hussein said that Jordan, in its quest to achieve peace, followed the same principles adopted by the other Arab parties directly involved in the peace process since the Madrid conference

and its terms of reference. Referring to the peace treaty with Israel, the King said that through that treaty the Kingdom had regained sovereignty over its lands and water resources. "What has been achieved through peace in the past came as a result of the firm Jordanian principled stands and the country's full commitment to a durable and just peace in the region," the King said. The King said Jordan would do everything in its power to back the peace process on all the other Israeli-Arab tracks until comprehensive peace is achieved — the peace that Jordan seeks would enable the peoples of this region to resume its development and construction process and attain a better standard of living benefitting the present and future generations, the King said.

The head of the delegation, David Victor, said the American Jewish Congress was committed to working for the attainment of just and durable peace, noting that the congress highly valued King Hussein's principled stands and his sincere efforts to achieve comprehensive peace in the region and enable its people to lead a dignified and secure life. The audience was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi, and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary.

## Security forces crush jail mutiny in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have crushed a bloody mutiny by Islamic fundamentalist detainees at the Serkadji jail in Algiers, Justice Minister Mohammed Tegui said Wednesday. Four prison wardens were killed and more than a dozen other members of the staff and the security forces injured, the minister said in a radio broadcast. There were "a few dead and wounded" among the prisoners, he added. Witnesses and anxious relatives of detainees waiting outside the prison said they believed many people had been killed and wounded. The mutiny began early Tuesday when detainees took seven guards and other prisoners hostage in a bid to break out of the overcrowded jail, the minister said. The mutineers, earlier described as detainees held on state security charges, slit the throats of four guards, using sharpened part of bedframes. "In a horrible way to terrorise the security forces," Mr. Tegui said. Heavily armed police and gendarmes surrounded the prison early Wednesday while other members of the security forces intervened to bring the rebellion under control. According to Mr. Tegui,

security chiefs "did not give the order for an assault immediately, wishing to avoid a bloodbath, but the mutineers defied them each time and refused to go back to their cells." "There were a lot of dead and injured, I saw lots of ambulances go by and blood was dropping from one of them," said an elderly woman at the scene. She had gathered with other anxious women awaiting news of relatives. The prison gates were wide open as the siege ended and a light armoured car stood by, with police, gendarmes and about 15 yellow ambulances of the civil protection service.

## Yemen reports progress in border talks with Saudis

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen and Saudi Arabia have made progress at talks over a long-standing border dispute but some points of disagreement still need to be ironed out, Yemen's Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani said on Wednesday. "We consider what has been achieved as a progress in relations between the two countries... there has been agreement on some points and some points of disagreement are still left," he told a news conference in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. He did not elaborate on what remains to be agreed. Mr. Abdul Ghani said that the two sides, if they fail to reach final agreement before the end of February, would hold more talks after Eid Al Fitr. Yemeni and Saudi delegates have been discussing for about a month now how to settle the 60-year-old border dispute which escalated into clashes in December. Both countries have accused each other of moving troops to the potentially oil-rich border area. Both Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saudi King Fahd have said they wanted to see a peaceful solution to the row. President Saleh said Tuesday he was ready to take the border dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Sanaa radio reported. Mr. Saleh said: "Yemen is anxious to settle peacefully its border dispute with the Saudi brothers, through dialogue, mediation or by recourse to the international court."

He was speaking to the U.S. charge d'affaires to Riyadh, David Welch, who is visiting Yemen, Sanaa Radio said. Mr. Saleh sent U.S. President Bill Clinton a message last Wednesday assuring him that Sanaa was determined to "settle the conflict with Riyadh through peaceful dialogue without resorting to force." **Gas contract** Yemen is expected to decide within weeks or months on which company would win the country's multi-billion dollar gas project, Prime Minister Abdul Ghani said. He told the news conference in Sanaa that the government will take a decision "within the coming weeks or months," but he did not elaborate. Mr. Abdul Ghani on Monday discussed with officials from Hunt Oil and Exxon Corp their participation in the project.

## France accuses five Americans of spying

PARIS (Agencies) — France has accused four American diplomats and a fifth U.S. citizen of political, military and economic spying and asked them to leave the country, French officials said Wednesday. Hours after the spying allegations were first reported by the newspaper Le Monde, U.S. Ambassador Pamela Harriman went to the offices of Premier Edouard Balladur. It was not known who requested the meeting, and no details of what was discussed were immediately available. French media described the affair as the worst diplomatic rift between the two allies since a Paris newspaper published the names of purported Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents in France in 1976. Mrs. Harriman declined comment as she left her 30-

minute meeting with Mr. Balladur and his aides. Mr. Balladur's office said the affair "should be handled with the greatest possible discretion" by the two nation's spy agencies. Mr. Balladur played down speculation about a major rift with Washington. Although he refused directly to confirm the expulsion request, he told reporters: "The French people are friends of the American people and the French government is a friend of the American government." "Events like that occur regularly on both sides of the Atlantic," Le Monde, quoting unnamed French officials, said there were 80 U.S. agents, 30 of them clandestine, in France. They said the United States had now supplanted the former Soviet Union as the main source of spying on France. Past cases have involved Iraqis, Iranians or Russians. According to Le Monde, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua wrote in a Feb. 18 letter to President Francois Mitterrand that the five Americans worked for the CIA and were guilty of "acts of interference," including attempts to recruit aides to cabinet ministers. The letter reportedly said the five — purportedly including the CIA station chief for France — were uncovered in a "long, detailed investigation" by the direction for territorial surveillance, or DST, France's counterintelligence service. Late Wednesday, in the first official statement on the affair, France's interior and foreign ministries issued a joint communique confirm-

(Continued on page 7)

## Srouf defends House record, cites behind-the-scene successes

By Ayman Al Safadi  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

FOURTEEN months into its four-year term which started in November 1993, the 12th Lower House of Parliament is receiving mixed reviews of its performance. While some political analysts say the House has outperformed the 11th Parliament in terms of tackling issues of crucial importance to the country, others accuse it of failing to assert its power as the legislative arm of government and the foremost watchdog body on the works of the executive authority. In the following interview with the Jordan Times, House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srouf categorically rejects the latter charges and brushes aside accusations that the second ordinary session of the House was unproductive, uneventful and void of any real effort to check the government's alleged control of Parliament.

AMMAN — "Constructive criticism is a healthy aspect of democracy that we welcome, appreciate and encourage," says Mr. Srouf. But those who criticise should seek fairness in their views; giving credit when it is due and speaking out against mistakes when they occur, he says. Mainly because people here have never really lived under a dictatorship that viciously abused their rights, some fail to appreciate the benefits that the restoration of parliamentary life in 1989 has brought upon them, says the House speaker. "It is people from elsewhere in the region that are denied what we have who recognise the significance of our parliamentary life and its advantages in the Kingdom," says the two-time deputy from the Northern Bedouin district in Mafrag Governorate. Talking to the Jordan Times in his office on the day the second ordinary session of the House ended, Mr. Srouf asserts that the 80 members of the House were chosen by the people in fair and free elections. "And the Jordanian people have never been docile. Their representatives are not either," says the engineer who turned into politician in 1982 when he joined the National Consultative Council, a consultative body that was created in 1978 after Parliament was dissolved in 1974. Mr. Srouf says that it is the role of the government to try and garner the support of the majority of the House for its policies so that it can govern. Any

docile if it supports a government of whose policies it is convinced, says Mr. Srouf. "If in order not to be seen as docile Parliament has to oppose every government, the whole country will fall into the abyss of chaos to the detriment of all."

Though Mr. Srouf is satisfied with the performance of the House, he stresses that it is unfair to compare it to other parliaments with many longer years of experience. "The performance of the House is developing and our democratic dialogue is more mature as an indication that our whole democratic process is coming of age," says the three-time minister, who hails from a prominent Northern Bedouin tribe. "Parliament is a major pillar of the political system in Jordan. No one can



Saad Hayel Srouf

government which does not try to win the support of deputies through the political process is not fit to govern. So the House is not

underestimate the importance of its role in legislation and monitoring the work of the government," the speaker asserts. That role, he says, the House is fulfilling. "What is important is for people to realise that."

But Mr. Srouf says that people do not get to observe all the work that is done in the House because a great deal of it takes place in the corridors of the House away from TV cameras and microphones. To illustrate, Mr. Srouf talks about the amount of effort that went into settling three disputes that erupted during the four months of the second regular session. Early into the session, Islamic Action Front Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant (Amman) was physically assaulted outside the mosque where he had delivered a Friday Sermon.

Due to the magnitude of the implications of this incident, the House speaker's utmost concern, Mr. Srouf says, was to solve the issue in the House and prevent it from spilling over into the street. That took an enormous amount of work with the speaker, his bloc and other lawmakers — a process that culminated in having only one member of the IAF represent the bloc's view on the case and the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate it, instead of having a free-for-all session in which tempers could have gotten out of control. The problem, says Mr. Srouf, was contained and not allowed to spill over into the street. But all that people saw of the effort to solve the case, which is now being heard in court, was being heard in court, was

(Continued on page 7)

## U.N. report slams Iraqi decrees

GENEVA (Agencies) — A United Nations investigator said on Tuesday that new Iraqi anti-crime decrees under which thieves can have their hands cut off for stealing less than \$10 showed Baghdad's "complete failure" to respect human rights.

In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, former Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep said a series of such decrees issued over the past year constituted an "astounding public institution of cruel and unusual punishments."

Mr. Van der Stoep, the commission's "special" rapporteur on Iraq, said the decrees were just one sign of continuing massive human rights violations in Iraq — firmly blamed by him on the government of President Saddam Hussein.

The rapporteur also criticised Iraq for refusing to accept a U.N.-supervised sale of oil to buy medicines and foodstuffs, which he described as "a further example of a government policy seriously violating human rights."

His report examines a number of decrees issued by the Revolutionary Command Council and published in Iraq's official gazette.

Mr. Van der Stoep said

decree No. 59 of June 4, 1994 prescribes "amputation of the right hand at the wrist for a first offence of theft over 5,000 Iraqi dinars" — or less than \$10. Amputation of the left foot at the ankle is prescribed for a second offence and death for the third.

According to decree No. 109 of Aug. 18, those who have suffered amputations should be branded or tattooed with a 'K' between the eyebrows.

Decree No. 115, issued a week later, "prescribes the cutting off of the amputee of each ear of each person evading military service, deserting military service, or sheltering an evader or deserter of military service."

Another decree says that farmers convicted of "sabotage of the national economy" — that is who refuse to sell their produce to the state at low state prices — are also liable to amputation of the hand and branding as well as imprisonment.

Mr. Van der Stoep wrote: "It is the opinion of the special rapporteur that these decrees reveal the complete failure of the government to respect its obligations under international human rights law."

"Indeed, it is surely a rarity in the contemporary interna-

tional community that a government not only boldly proclaims laws which stipulate disfigurement of persons within its jurisdiction, but shamelessly announces and advertises the existence of these punishments."

In three previous reports to the commission, Mr. Van der Stoep has documented widespread rights violations in all spheres of life. He has not been allowed to visit the country since January 1992.

He has argued that given Iraq's power structures, the violations were inevitable and that human rights violations were a direct result of state policy.

In this year's report, Mr. Van der Stoep said his previous conclusions were still valid. He wrote: "Power is grossly abused on a daily and widespread basis. The special rapporteur submits that the decrees issued recently in Iraq irrefutably substantiate this conclusion."

Mr. Van der Stoep said as well as the state, there was proof of the direct responsibility of a circle of high-placed individuals, individuals who would not be afforded immunity under international law for their actions.

providing details of the personal involvement of a growing list of individuals within and around the ruling elite of Iraq in relation to various serious human rights violations," he wrote.

Mr. Van der Stoep renewed calls that human rights monitors should be situated throughout the country to check on abuses, just as U.N. weapons experts monitored the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war.

He said the use of the death penalty was constantly on the rise. He criticised its application for "crimes" like illegal possession of foreign currency or smuggling as "wholly disproportionate."

Torture was the norm in Iraqi detention centres, the report said. In one of many cases, the bodies of six young men who had died in detention last August were returned to their families with their eyes plucked out.

The report said Iraq had "by far and away" the most cases of disappearances before any U.N. panel. At the end of 1994, there were 15,781 missing people, with hundreds more cases waiting to be investigated. More than 600 Kuwaitis and other foreigners were still unaccounted after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

## Libyan defector seeks \$5m from CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — A defector from Libya wants the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to pay him \$5 million for supplying intelligence on that country's involvement in "international terrorism," the Washington Times reported Tuesday.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Hosok claimed the CIA used diplomatic codes that he provided to intercept communications between Muammar Qadhafi's government and its agents abroad and avert numerous attacks during the 1980s.

The ability to decode communications allowed the United States to foil a 1980 plot to assassinate Egypt's former president, Anwar Sadat, and to intercept orders from Tripoli to shoot demonstrators in front of the Libyan embassy in London in April 1984.

The information reached the British too late to avert the death of policewoman Yvonne Fletcher in front of the CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield declined to comment on Mr. Hosok's claims because of an agency policy not to discuss relationships with other agencies.

Mr. Hosok told the Washington Times he began working for the CIA in 1979, while serving as a diplomat at Libya's embassy in Lagos, Nigeria. Soon after, he borrowed the embassy's coding machine long enough for the Americans to copy the electronic data it contained.

He defected two years later and went to work for the agency in Washington.

In 1992, Mr. Hosok complained to his superiors, asking to be paid \$5 million for his spying. Instead, he said he received \$50,000 and three years' severance pay from the agency.

"For any secret communications system... you have to pay millions," Mr. Hosok told the Washington Times. "I gave them the secret communications system of the Libyan regime."

The agency decoded Libyan government communications until 1986, Mr. Hosok said. Washington revealed its intercept capability that year to prove Libya's involvement in the bombing of a Berlin discotheque and justify a retaliatory air strike on Tripoli and Benghazi.

A U.S. soldier and a Turkish woman died in the Berlin blast and 200 people were injured. After the air strike, in which dozens of Libyans died, Voice of America repeatedly broadcast an appeal to the Libyan people to overthrow Colonel Qadhafi.

His government repeatedly has been linked to attacks. Allegations include the 1988 bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people, and the downing of a French jet over Niger the next year in which 171 people died.

Mr. Hosok eventually was transferred to the Libyan embassy in Rome, from where he was evacuated to the United States in 1981.

He said he helped write a CIA report detailing Libya's subversive activities in Africa, which was passed on to the Nigerian government against his objections. He said the report revealed his whereabouts to the Libyans, who until then had not known what had happened to him, and probably led to the deaths of family members in Tripoli.

## Abequa prosecutor heads for U.S. Saturday to review evidence

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prosecutor Khalid Darwish will travel to the United States on Saturday to prepare for the trial against Muhammad Abequa, a Jordanian accused of killing his wife last July.

Mr. Abequa, a naturalised American citizen, confessed to killing his estranged Turkish-born wife, Nihal, 40, in her apartment on July 4, while her children slept in the bedroom. He then fled to Jordan with their two children, Lisa then 6, and Sami 3. He is being charged with first degree murder, and kidnapping.

In the absence of an extradition treaty between Jordan and the United States, Mr. Abequa will face trial in Jordan. "All I can say is that we are very interested in this case and we are working on it," Mr. Darwish told the Jordan Times. He refused to

elaborate. Minister of Justice, Hisham Al Tal, said a trial date has not been set yet, pending Mr. Darwish's return from the United States. "He (Darwish) will interview key witnesses, look into evidence collected by prosecutors in the United States, and look at the coroners' report," he said.

Nihal, who was separated from her husband in 1992, was found by New Jersey police strangled to death and stuffed under a bed, with a plastic bag over her head. Police immediately issued a warrant for the arrest of her husband. On July 20 last year, Mr. Abequa confessed to Jordanian authorities that he had killed her.

The slain woman's sister, Nesime Dokur, accompanied by her lawyer, arrived in Jordan in August in order to take the children back to the United States. During her

17-day stay in Jordan, she met with His Majesty King Hussein, who personally intervened, assuring her that she had been awarded custody of her dead sister's children. They were returned to the United States Aug. 18, 1993.

Once back in the U.S., a Morris County superior court judge awarded care of the children to Ms. Dokur and the children's grandmother, Maryon Gussal.

"After he (Darwish) returns from the United States he will prepare a list of key witnesses that will have to come to Jordan to testify once the trial begins," explained Mr. Tal.

"We're anxious to work with Mr. Darwish, to introduce him to witnesses and to Morris County detectives," W. Michael Murphy Jr., Morris County prosecutor was quoted as saying. "We want to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure a successful prosecution."

## Israel questions Syrian commitment to reaching a negotiated settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's deputy foreign minister, taking a new line on Syria, questioned on Wednesday the validity of its stated commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Yossi Beilin said Israel had accepted in recent years that Syria had made a strategic decision to achieve peace and the only question was when a deal would be signed.

"I have some doubts about accepting this because Syria's behaviour in the last few months has not been that of someone who decided unequivocally to pursue peace and is prepared to do his utmost to achieve it," he told Israel Radio.

Syria's peace talks with Israel are stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967, and the shape of peace "in future times."

"The current negotiations, or absence of them, is leading to a situation whereby we will not reach peace with the Syrians in 1995 because things are moving at a snail's pace," said Mr. Beilin, who is close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Beilin's mention of the date was a clear reminder to Syria that time is running out

before Israel goes to elections in 1996. The Labour government's main rival, the right-wing Likud, opposes any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

Israel, while blaming Syria for the current deadlock in peace efforts, had in the past pointed to repeated Syrian statements that comprehensive peace in the Middle East was a strategic option as proof of a commitment to the process.

"They are still playing the game of whether the Syrian ambassador in Washington will or won't come to talks with our ambassadors," Mr. Beilin said. "If that is the case, it is very possible there are other items at the top of the Syrian agenda."

Syria has said further ambassadorial-level meetings would be useful only if Israel presented new ideas.

Mr. Beilin said it was possible Syria had only wanted to join the peace process to improve relations with Washington, which still officially regards it as a state that sponsors "terrorism," "without having really intended to reach an agreement with us."

He questioned whether Syria was prepared to pay the price of peace, which he described as a change in its

position as the leader of Arab confrontation states against Israel and a possible worsening of its relations with Iran. On Monday, the Syrian government daily Tishreen said recent Israeli attacks against guerrillas in South Lebanon were destroying the chances of peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has repeatedly warned that 1995 the last chance for peace, because with elections in November 1996, the government will not be in a position to make any concessions.

"The time has come to examine deeply the Syrians' true intentions and to see if it really is possible to make peace with them," said Mr. Beilin.

He criticised "the little game Syria is playing" with its ambassador to Washington Walid Muallim, who has failed to show up for several scheduled meetings with his Israeli counterpart, Itamar Rabinovich, this year.

"By fostering uncertainty, the Syrians want above all to give the impression to the United States that they are still playing an active role in the peace process," Mr. Beilin charged.

## Underground Palestinian police ready for work

JENIN, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — Hundreds of Palestinian police work secretly in this Israeli-occupied West Bank town without uniform, rank or legal recognition in anticipation of PLO self-rule.

While 16,000 Palestinian police operate in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, the official deployment of security forces in Jenin awaits the extension of Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank, the subject of de facto negotiations.

Palestinian officials, however, make no secret of their presence and say Israel prefers to ignore it. "The Palestinian police are active, but unofficially, semi-secretly," said Abdullah Lahoul, the Israeli-appointed mayor of Jenin. He said the Jenin area

boasts about 2,000 intelligence and crack security forces that "settle fights and family feuds, and Israel turns a blind eye."

"They (the forces) take the real trouble cases to Jericho" for punishment, he added. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has proposed a "Jenin first" option under which the Palestinians would take over administration of the town without the replacement of Israeli troops by Palestinian police.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat has rejected the plan unless it forms part of an overall timetable for full autonomy on the West Bank. The plan has been stalled for months by Israel's refusal to pull troops out of

built-up Palestinian areas for exposing the 140,000 Jewish settlers to attack.

The headquarters of Jenin's "preventive security," a branch of intelligence, is a modest office decorated with posters of the Palestinian flag overlooking the town's market place.

"There's nothing we don't intervene in," a young official said between shouting orders down the telephone to deal with a shooting and a clean-up campaign.

"Family disputes, marriage, divorce, money conflicts, everything."

"We are preparing the people for Palestinian autonomy, but we have no legal system, no prison and powers are limited," he added, asking not to be named.

### ينظم القسم التجاري في السفارة الامريكية في عمان المعرض الامريكي السنوي للكمبيوتر



TISGROUP  
TANJAWI INFORMATION SYSTEM GROUP

الاسواق

JRP  
JORDAN RADIO PAGING

BYTE  
الخدمات الالكترونية

Tanish Information Systems Group  
Computer & Communication Systems  
Sinam Integrated Systems  
Petro Systems  
Arabian Office Automation Co.  
Shahin Computer Est.  
Specialized Technical Services  
Jordan Micro-Tech  
Mirage Information Technology Group  
Silicon Valley Computers  
Access  
Lotus Computers & Electronics Est.  
Tolap International Trading Co. Ltd  
Modern Systems & Computer Trade  
National Electronic Systems  
P.C. Jordan  
Scientific & Medical Supplies Co.  
Computer & Engineering Bureau  
Byte Magazine - Middle East  
Hertz/Shahin Rent a Car  
Aramex  
Al-Aswaa  
Coca Cola  
Jordan Radio Paging  
Judea Cards Tech Est.  
Al-Makdaba Trading Co.  
United Technologies Solution Center



ARAMEX  
It's A Small World.

Hertz  
Shahin Rent a Car

SIS  
Sinam Integrated Systems

ACCESS

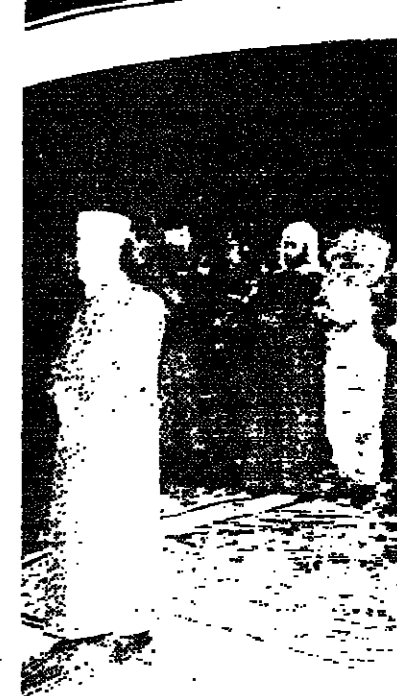


THIRD ANNUAL AMERICAN COMPUTER SHOW

سيتم الافتتاح مساء يوم الاربعاء الموافق ٢٢ شباط ١٩٩٥ وستكون الدعوة عامة ايام الخميس والجمعة الموافق ٢٤، ٢٥ من الساعة العاشرة صباحاً حتى الرابعة والنصف مساءً ومن الساعة السابعة مساءً حتى الساعة عشرة ليلاً. سيحضر صاحب بومبي على جوانز مقدمة من الشركات المشاركة وفندق فيلادلفيا. البطاقات مجانية.

سيقام المعرض في فندق فيلادلفيا.

## Home



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal in the Jordan Valley

## Crown Prince of land evacuation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said he hoped that the concerned authorities would draw up plans for efficient utilisation of the Jordanian lands in the Jordan Valley region evacuated by the Israeli forces in implementation of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty.

Addressing army officers from the engineering corps that took part in removing land mines from the evacuated Jordanian land, Prince Hassan said that he hoped new plans would entail the development of these lands

## Ministry w

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing the final draft of the country's agricultural policy and will submit it to the higher agricultural council and later to the Council of Ministers for approval, according to Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif.

Addressing a meeting with the chairman and members of the Federation of Jordan Valley Farmers Association in Deir Alla Wednesday, the minister said that the policy

## Central p

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Central Produce Market currently located in Wihdat will be relocated to Jweidah and serve the local and international markets, according to officials.

"The Wihdat market is too small compared to the large number of bidding and trade that takes place daily," Mustafa Abu Osba, the director of the central market said. He told the Jordan Times that the expansion of agricultural technology and the resultant increase in the amounts of produce prompted the authorities to consider a larger and more convenient area for retailers and farmers to conduct their transactions.

The new market, he said, stretches over a 150-hectare area, which is seven times the size of the current market. In addition, Mr. Abu Osba said that there will be 220 new wholesale stores on the premises.

According to Mr. Abu Osba, the Central Produce Market, which was established in 1966, used to serve a small market, but circumstances changed in

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ A recital of authentic Arab music by Sheikh of Entertainment Sabri Mubarak (to be preceded by an iftar) on Thursday and Friday.
- ★ Field trip to Teikhat Ghassani and the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) be from the FoA centre in private a.m.
- ★ Oud recital by Khalid Youssef at the Culture and Art on Thursday.
- ★ Film entitled "The Learning Year" Center on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.
- ★ Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The From an Islamic Perspective" with Mr. Jamal Al Ma'lawi and on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Cultural Centre on Thursday."
- ★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Royal Cultural Centre on Thurs

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:00 ..... Les Ratons Laveurs  
17:30 ..... Jidna  
18:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... Planete En Equation  
20:30 ..... Road to Avonlea  
21:10 ..... The Hat Squad  
22:00 ..... News in English  
23:10 ..... Feature Film: "Separation"

## PRAYER TIMES

04:50 ..... Fajr  
06:30 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:40 ..... Dhur  
15:01 ..... 'Asr  
17:31 ..... Maghreb  
18:49 ..... 'Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Switcheh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
62785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Lutheran Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.  
628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel.  
625258.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
624328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Con-  
gregation Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in  
Amman Tel. 811295

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-  
ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise  
with skies partly cloudy and winds  
northwesterly moderate. In Agaba,  
winds will be northerly moderate  
and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 4/15  
Amman 12/20  
Agaba 12/20  
Deserts 2/16  
Jordan Valley 9/19

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fakih Tayeh 885880  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 752405  
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827193  
Dr. Bassam Karadshch 759201  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Fendows pharmacy 776336  
Al Azema pharmacy 627055  
Nakrakh pharmacy 626372  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Omani 277032  
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi 900800  
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

## YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Amman 12, Agaba 18. Humidity  
readings: Amman 90 per cent.  
Agaba 65 per cent.

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue 630241  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 603021  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints 787111

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Akilah Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642632  
Malhas, J. Amman 636100  
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/13  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Bashir Hospital 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/66  
Al-Bashir, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3  
Army, Marks 891611/15  
Queen Ala Hospital 662403/30  
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:  
Zargo Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital  
Don Sura Hospital (09)905660  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
(Terminal 1)  
04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:00 Aden (RJ)  
07:20 Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 Agaba (RJ)  
09:15 Amman, Damascus (AF)  
09:20 Beirut (ME)  
21:00 Cairo (MS)  
22:55 Istanbul (TK)  
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
(Terminal 1)  
05:45 Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 Agaba (RJ)  
10:40 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
10:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:00 Rome (RJ)  
11:55 Paris (RJ)  
12:00 London (RJ)  
12:45 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
12:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
19:45 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:25 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:10 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Beirut (ME)  
10:55 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
13:30 Algiers (AH)  
13:50 Riyadh (SV)  
17:15 Dubai (EK)  
22:00 Cairo (O7)

## MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in fils per kg

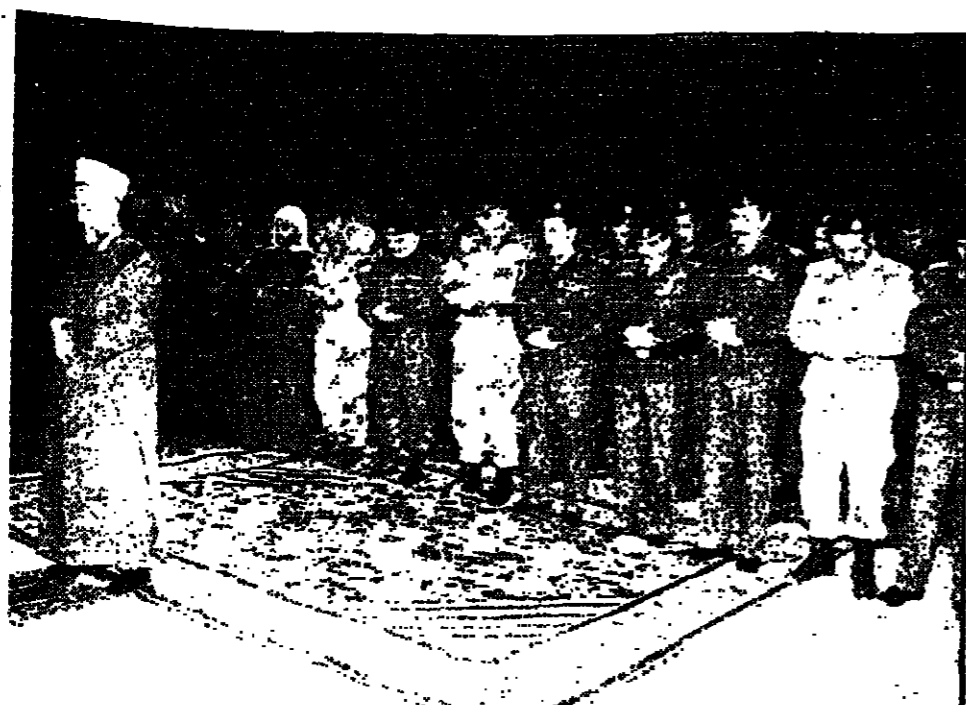
Apple 700  
Banana 600  
Basil (Maltese) 120  
Cabbage 130  
Carrot 180  
Cauliflower 120  
Cucumbers (large) 120  
Cucumbers (small) 120  
Eggplant 170  
Garlic 110  
Grape Fruit 220  
Green Beans 200  
Lemon 70  
Marrow (large) 120  
Marrow (small) 200  
Onion (dry) 200  
Onion (wet) 200  
Pepper (hot) 200  
Pepper (sweet) 200  
Potato 200  
Radish 200  
Spinach 200  
String Beans 200  
Tomato 200

## DEPARTURES

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(Terminal 1)  
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan performs Maghreb prayers with army officers in the Jordan Valley

## Crown Prince urges optimal use of land evacuated by Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said he hoped that the concerned authorities would draw up plans for efficient utilisation of the Jordanian lands in the Jordan Valley region evacuated by the Israeli forces in implementation of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty.

Addressing army officers from the engineering corps that took part in removing land mines from the evacuated Jordanian land, Prince Hassan said that he hoped new plans would entail the development of these lands

for the production of cereal, olives and vegetables. The Crown Prince, who hosted an iftar banquet at the Jordan Valley to honour the army officers, expressed appreciation of the Armed Forces' efforts and said that the evacuated lands had for long been neglected, and the time has come for Jordan to utilise this resource for food production.

He said that the Armed Forces had been contributing to the general development of the country before the peace treaty, expressing hope that they would participate

now in developing the thousands of dunums of territory that have been restored to Jordanian sovereignty.

Later Prince Hassan toured parts of the evacuated area and remarked that Jordanians have a duty to benefit from this sacred land and again make it productive.

He conveyed to the army officers greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and appreciation of their efforts in defending the national soil and helping to develop it as a contribution to the overall development programme of the Kingdom.

## 'Horses banned from Siq starting March 1'

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Horses, long used in large numbers by both tourists and local bedouins to traverse the narrow, winding Siq at Petra, will be banned from the canyon as of March 1, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Tourism told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The presence of the many horsemen who run back and forth through the long ravine, often only a hairspace away from tourists who decide to travel through the Siq on foot, "has long been a major complaint and safety concern," said ministry Secretary-General Ghassan Muflih.

"This is especially worrisome at this particular time," he added "as we are expecting huge numbers of tourists to come to Petra this March and April, and the Siq will be unusually crowded."

Two lesser annoyances behind the Ministry of Tourism's decision are the dust which the horses kick up, sometimes in the faces of nearby pedestrians, and, not surprisingly, the large amounts of manure which accumulate in the Siq as a result of the heavy horse traffic.

The ministry has tried watering the Siq on a twice-daily basis to keep sand and dust from rising when the horses pass, Dr. Muflih said, "but we found out that this only adds to the overall problem — the dampness of the soil only makes the smell worse."

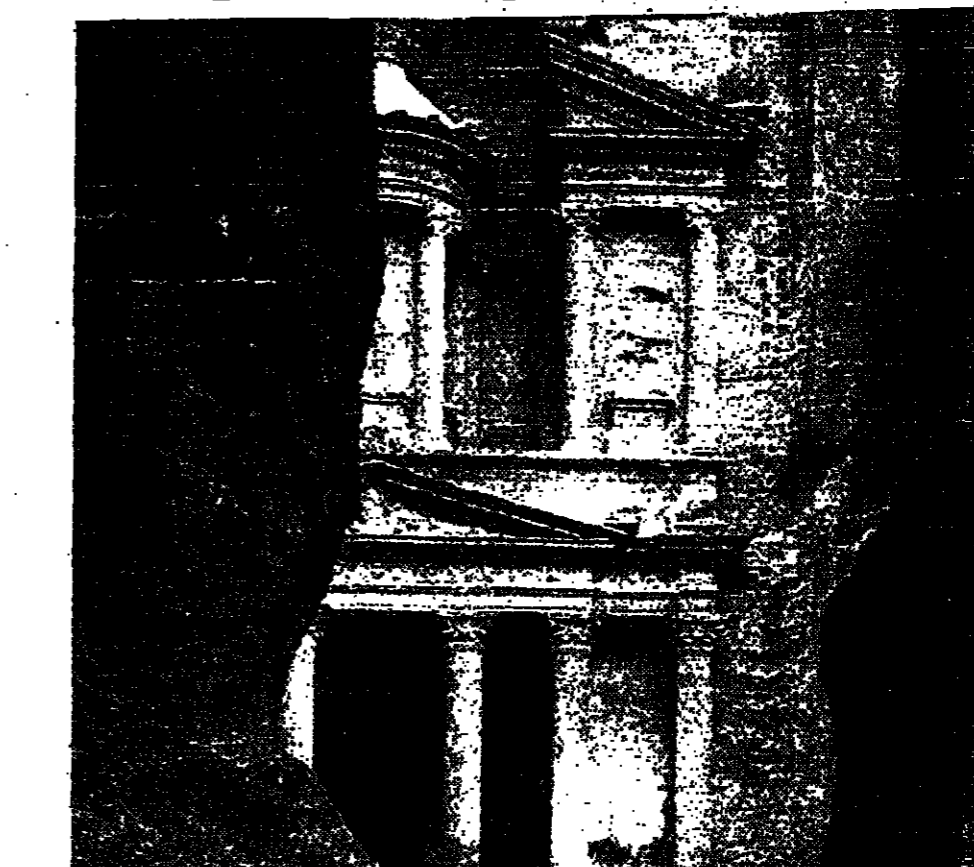
Another possible solution was thought to have been found some years back, he said, after Petra's horse-owners and authorities agreed on dressing all steeds passing through the Siq with special "horse pampers."

However, said Dr. Muflih, that strategy fell through because "the horseowners never implemented it."

The ministry's decision may have some slightly amusing aspects. But one resident of the Petra region, at least, was not entertained. Mohammad Ali Hassanat, president of the Wadi Musa Club, told Al Dustour daily Tuesday that horseowners in Petra were extremely upset about the ban, and that it would mean disaster for some 350 families in the area who depend on selling horses through the Siq to tourists for their livelihood.

Although the new edict would still allow horseowners to operate from their stand near the tourist bus stop until the mouth of the Siq, Mr. Hassanat doubted that many tourists would pay for a horse ride that would only cover half a mile, and then leave them on foot for the greater portion of the journey until the other end of the Siq.

One European researcher, who said he frequently visited Petra and was acquainted with several families from Petra's bedouins, who as a whole depend heavily on the tourist trade for their living, expressed mixed feelings about the ministry's decision.



through the Siq. But on the other side, he wondered what would happen to the bedouins as a result.

The bedouins I know have told me that although more and more tourists are coming these days, their financial condition has already become shakier," he said. "This is because so many of the tourists are coming now in large pre-organised tour groups, and they don't take time out to stop and buy anything from the bedouins inside Petra."

Dr. Muflih said the ministry was well aware of the vital dependence of Petra natives on the tourists, and downplayed concerns that horseowners there would be out of work as a result of the ban.

"Since around 90 per cent of the tourists are coming to Petra in packaged tour groups, where the travel agents have pre-paid for the horse rides, the horseowners have a guaranteed income as a result," he said.

As for elderly tourists, who might not have the stamina for crossing of the long and crooked Siq on foot, and

visitors returning back from their journey through Petra's ruins who might be too tired to endure a second crossing of the canyon, Dr. Muflih assured that they would be provided for.

"We are working on options for those visitors returning back," he said, including alternative transport routes, most prominent of them one which passes through Turkmaniya and Um Sahayoun. For elderly tourists, he added, there would be seven carriages to make regular runs through the Siq.

## Ministry works on draft agricultural policy

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing the final draft of the country's agricultural policy and will submit it to the higher agricultural council and later to the Council of Ministers for approval, according to Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif.

Addressing a meeting with the chairman and members of the Federation of Jordan Valley Farmers Association in Deir Alla Wednesday, the minister said that the policy

aims at enabling Jordan to become self-reliant and to increase its food production and improve the farmers' income.

Mr. Ben Tarif said that under the provisions of this policy representatives of farmers will be involved in decision-making in matters pertaining to food production, marketing and problem-solving.

The plan envisages better and more effective use of land and water, he added.

Mr. Ben Tarif announced that the Ministry of Agriculture has acquired tractors and other field machinery and equipment which it would sell to farmers through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) at cost price and would request payment in instalments.

But the minister made it clear that the government was in no position to adopt a programme for agricultural insurance as this is very costly.

He said that the new plan entails facilities for the farmers to pay their dues over longer periods of time and reschedule loan payments.

Mr. Ben Tarif announced at the meeting that the government was buying wheat from the local farmers at JD 165 a tonne and barley at JD 125.

He warned the farmers that the Gulf states were not allowing any fruits and vegetables into their markets after August this year, unless they are packed in plastic or

wooden crates or boxes, and they would not accept polystyrene boxes.

Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Director Salem Lawzi told farmers that Jordan was expected to sell more of its products to the Gulf countries as relations with these countries improve.

He said that Jordan continues to sell most of its products to these countries and Europe and has started marketing agricultural products in Indonesia.

## JBA to organise conference with Palestinian businesspersons

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) is organising a conference with the Palestinian business community in Amman in June, according to a JBA statement Wednesday.

The statement said that the main aim of the conference is to orient businesspersons from both sides on the economic and investment climates in Palestine and Jordan and to open the way for cooperation and coordination in investments and joint ventures.

During the three-day conference representatives of the two sides will submit several working papers dealing with the economic situation of both sides and means to further develop trade links.

One of the papers will discuss the investment opportu-

nities and another will deal with regional projects that could involve Palestinian and Jordanian businesspersons, said the statement.

Working papers will also deal with national industries and the agricultural, transit, tourism, transport, banking and insurance sectors, added the statement.

It said that through the discussions attendees would find opportunities for launching new projects in these areas.

It said that the participants in the conference are expected to come up with a proper mechanism designed to perpetuate cooperation and coordination between the private sectors on both sides.

Meanwhile, a delegation representing JBA Wednesday called on Minister of

Planning Rima Khalaf Humeidi and briefed her on JBA's activities and programmes to attract foreign investments to the Kingdom.

The delegation, comprising JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and Secretary Thabet Taher, said the JBA board was building a strong base of contacts and cooperation with business communities in Arab and foreign countries.

So far they said, the JBA has succeeded in forming seven joint business councils with Egypt, Syria, Canada, France, Spain, Malaysia and Turkey in a bid to boost investments and joint ventures.

The JBA delegation discussed with the minister priorities for the Jordanian government's development projects.

## Central produce market to move to larger site

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Central Produce Market currently located in Whidat will be relocated to Jweidat and serve the local and international markets, according to officials.

"The Whidat market is too small compared to the large number of bidding and trade that takes place daily," Mustafa Abu Osha, the director of the central market said. He told the Jordan Times that the expansion of agricultural technology and the resultant increase in the amounts of produce prompted the authorities to consider a larger and more convenient area for retailers and farmers to conduct their transactions.

The new market, he said, stretches over a 150-dunum area, which is seven times the size of the current market. In addition, Mr. Abu Osha said that there will be 220 new wholesale stores on the premises.

According to Mr. Abu Osha, the Central Produce Market, which was established in 1966, used to serve a small market, but circumstances changed in

the 1970s and 1980s. "From 1978 to 1987 there was a continuous growth in produce trading and the market was unable to absorb the increased activity," Mr. Abu Osha explained.

According to Mr. Abu Osha, the new market is nearly ready, and the current vegetable and fruit market will move to the new premises within the next few months.

In the meantime, a dispute over produce prices between the retailers and the market management during the second week of Ramadan was resolved, according to Mr. Abu Osha.

The retailers had complained that prices of produce were low, and that they were losing money, Mr. Abu Osha told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Abu Osha said that the conflict arose because of consumers' increased demand for food during the month of Ramadan which pushed the prices up. "Add to that the fact that it is winter time, and produce production is low," he said.

The retailers went on strike for three hours last Thursday

and refused to buy any fruits and vegetables. "Every year during the month of Ramadan we face the same problem, and the Ministry of Supply tightens its monitoring which makes it harder for retailers and merchants to play with the prices which irritates the retailers," Mr. Abu Osha said.

According to Mr. Abu Osha, a pricing committee appointed by the central market tours the market daily and collects the bidding prices, and "based on it we set the fruit and vegetable prices every day."

The retailers had also complained about produce containers, saying that there was no consistency in the size of the containers and that there is no official system of grading the produce.

"When we buy a box of vegetables from the farmers, the top is filled with the best quality, but the bottom contains small and poor quality vegetables for cooking," one retailer told the Jordan Times.

The pricing committee is not taking into consideration the losses we suffer because of the bad quality of some of the

produce that we buy," the retailer said.

In addition, he said, haphazard pricing of varying container sizes by the farmers is viewed as inaccurate and unfair by the retailers.

Mr. Abu Osha said the market management realises that there is an inconsistency in the container pricing method, which he said created problems for the pricing committee.

The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) is in charge of monitoring the dimensions of containers, Mr. Abu Osha said.

At the same time, he added, it is impossible to monitor every shipment due to the large quantities that are being traded on a daily basis.

Salem Lawzi, the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), said that the organisation conducts continuous monitoring and tries to implement the technical specifications so that merchants are not cheated.

"We are responsible for specifying the measurements and dimensions of the containers,

and the Jordanian Institution for Standardisation and Metrology at the Ministry of Industry and Trade is in charge of checking that all parties abide by our specifications," he said.

According to Dr. Lawzi, AMO has recently presented a draft law to check the specification and quality of Jordanian produce. The draft law, he added, seeks to eliminate most of the problems facing the produce and packing industries.

"We will implement a grading and packing system when the new market place is opened, and there will be a special area that will be designated for exporting and retail consumers," Dr. Lawzi said.

Hassan Saudi, director of the Jordanian Institution for Standardisation and Metrology, said that the ministry sends daily inspectors to monitor the trade in the market, but "we can't monitor every container that enters the market."

"More than 200,000 produce containers enter the market daily and we can't inspect every container, hence we depend on the farmers' honesty," Mr. Saudi told the Jordan Times.

## WHAT'S GOING ON ARAB MUSIC

★ A recital of authentic Arab music heritage by Syrian Sheikh of Entertainment Sabri Muddalal and his ensemble (to be preceded by an iftar) at the Hotel Inter-Continental on Thursday and Friday at 5:00 p.m.

### FIELD TRIP

★ Field trip to Telilat Ghassal and Ain Zara organised by the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) centre. Departure will be from the FoA centre in private cars on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

### OUF RECITAL

★ Ouf recital by Khalid Yousef at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

### FILM

★ Film entitled "The Learning Tree" at the American Center on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

### SEMINAR

★ Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Terrorist Extremism From an Islamic Perspective" with the participation of Mr. Jamal Al Ma'lawani and Dr. Hamdi Murad on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

### PLAYS

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Mask" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Not Yourself" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 9:00 p.m.

## Visiting Slovak commerce team explores joint venture prospects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 12-member delegation from the Slovak Chamber of Industry and Commerce Wednesday started a three-day visit to Jordan to explore areas of cooperation with Jordanian counterparts in launching joint projects.

Head of the delegation Peter Mihok said at a meeting with Ali Dajani, advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry, that his team's visit stemmed from the desire to establish links with the Amman Chamber of Industry and Trade and examine ways for cooperation.

Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times that Jordan exports veterinary drugs, Dead Sea cosmetic salts and children's copybooks to Slovakia totalling \$300,000 and imports \$4.7 million worth of iron, steel and medical equipment annually.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Dajani noted that the two sides discussed the prospect of Slovak-Jordanian cooperation in launching joint projects in engineering, chemical and food processing industries in which Slovakia has significant experience.

The Slovak delegation includes industrialists, merchants, and experts in banking and agriculture, said Mr. Dajani, who deputised for the chamber's president, Khalid Abu Hassan, who is currently in Iraq.

The Slovakian delegation's visit follows a visit to Jordan last December by a higher level delegation led by the Slovak minister of trade who promised to send over businessmen to discuss closer trade and economic ties, according to Mr. Dajani.

Mr. Mihok briefed Mr. Dajani and chamber members on Slovakia's industrial sector and Slovak's transformation into the market

economy. Mr. Dajani said that what Jordanians need to have is know-how and advice and partners in joint ventures.

He briefed the delegation on Jordan's industrial sector noting that it contributes to 90 per cent of national exports and accounts for 20 per cent of the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP).

Mr. Dajani invited the delegation to visit the factories and hold discussion with the Jordanian industrialists to pave the way for joint ventures.

## VACANCY

PEPSI COLA INTERNATIONAL operating out of a regional office in Amman seeks to employ an **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** and personal assistant to the Area Finance Director.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ★ Typing
- ★ Filing
- ★ Arranging for meetings
- ★ Travel arrangements
- ★ Preparation of presentations
- ★ Writing short notes and letters

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- The ideal candidate should be between 25-40 years old and should have the following qualifications:
- ★ Very high standards of typing
- ★ Computer literacy (word for windows, windows, excel, powerpoint).
- ★ Communication skills, both written and verbal
- ★ High level of competency in the English language
- Prior experience in a similar position is essential; Experience with a major multinational is preferred.**

### REMUNERATION:

A very generous salary plus benefits (above the going local rates) will be offered to the successful candidate. **If interested please mail your resume in English to:**

**Attention Finance Manager  
Vacancy: Administration Assistant  
P.O. Box: 830848  
11183 Amman-Jordan  
or Fax it to 06-687219**

**Applications to be received by March 9, 1995.  
All applications will be treated in strict confidence.**

## S. Africa's Inkatha MPs pack for home in Buthelezi boycott

CAPE TOWN (R) — Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leading his party in a boycott of South Africa's newly-democratic parliament, attended a cabinet meeting Wednesday while most of his MPs packed their bags for home.

Inkatha parliamentarian Suzanne Vos said it would take intervention by President Nelson Mandela to get the federalist Zulu-based party back to parliament after a special congress early next month.

"Everyone should take us very, very seriously, extremely seriously on this," she said of Buthelezi's decision Tuesday to walk out of parliament in protest against an alleged betrayal by Mr. Mandela and former President F.W. de Klerk.

"If nothing happens between now and the congress it will be very tough to persuade our people to send us back," she said.

The boycott has sparked fears of fresh violence in the volatile Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal where thousands have been killed in political feuding between the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the African National Congress (ANC) over the past decade.

Cabinet Secretary Jakes Gerwel told Reuters that Mr. Mandela, Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Buthelezi chatted over coffee before Wednesday's routine cabinet meeting, but he was not aware of what was discussed.

Mr. Gerwel said all Inkatha ministers were in cabinet with the three leaders, but the walkout was not raised.

Mr. Mandela Tuesday condemned the walkout.

Officials of Mr. Mandela's

ANC and Mr. de Klerk's National Party, partners with Inkatha in a transitional government of national unity, denied that either had reneged on their written promise last year to submit Mr. Buthelezi's constitutional demands to international mediation.

They said the three parties had, however, been unable to agree on terms and an agenda for the mediation effort, which would overlap the work of an elected Constitutional Assembly.

Mr. Buthelezi, who wants stronger federal powers written into South Africa's first all-race elections last year on the basis of the mediation accord, which was signed seven days before the polls opened.

Mr. Buthelezi declined to say Tuesday what he expected from Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk.

He said the special congress would decide whether Inkatha's 43 members of parliament should return to Cape Town and whether its three cabinet ministers should remain in Mr. Mandela's coalition government of national unity.

He said he felt betrayed by the failure to submit the constitutional status of the Zulu monarchy and the powers of nine post-apartheid provincial governments to foreign mediation.

"Our country cannot afford that any one of us be forced to stand alone and isolated in defending that which is right," he said to jeers from Mr. Mandela's African National Congress.

"Let us be blunt: Honour has been betrayed," he said.

Ms. Vos said about six of the party's legislators would stay in Cape Town as political

directorate to monitor events.

She said the rest were packing for home.

A presidential spokesman said the issue of the mass walkout was "not on the agenda, nobody asked that it be put on the agenda, and was not dealt with as a cabinet matter."

He said all three IFP members of the cabinet were present at the pre-planned, special meeting that dealt with a white paper on education.

The surprise walkout Tuesday has been shrugged off by the ANC, the majority party.

Mr. Mandela said this week that international mediation, as agreed at an April 1994 meeting with him, Mr. de Klerk, Mr. Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, was no longer necessary.

"This is silly," a leading ANC government figure said. "It cannot last. Many of these parliamentarians rely on their salaries to live and if they stay away too long they will lose their source of income."

Fears that the issue could become a stumbling block to IFP participation in municipal elections scheduled for October were dispelled Wednesday by the Zulu nationalist party.

"The fact that the IFP has suspended its participation in parliament has no bearing whatsoever on the party's preparations for the elections," IFP campaign manager Senzo Mfayela said.

"The IFP is encouraging all of our structures to continue with voter registration programmes."

Apart from immediate rumblings that the walkout could drive the financial rand down and delay the scrapping of the unit for foreign invest-

ment, economists said markets would wait and see what happened after next month's conference.

"It could just be another example of Buthelezi brinkmanship," Marius de Jager, chief executive of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said. "He's rather fond of pushing things to the limit."

Tony Twine of Econometrix, a think tank, said Mr. Buthelezi's move was "mainly symbolic."

"All they have done is withdraw from parliament," he said. "Their executive functions are not altered." And even if the IFP withdrew permanently, he said, "it will allow them to become more of an opposition, which is what democracy is all about."

"This hasn't damaged democracy in South Africa," Mr. Twine said. "Let's us hope the rest of the world sees it like that."

The IFP's walkout came hours after the head of South Africa's central Reserve Bank, Chris Stals, said the dual currency system could be scrapped at any time as far as he was concerned.

But he warned that a final decision to abolish the financial rand would have to be taken by politicians and that scrapping the investment unit required political stability.

Meanwhile, the IFP legislators who walked out could lose their seats in parliament if they miss more than 15 consecutive working days of the sitting, parliamentary Speaker F.W. Ginwala said.

She told a press briefing here that lawyers were also looking into whether the IFP would lose its registration as a political party if it did not fill the empty seats.

## U.S. urges Turkey to spare civilians

ANKARA (AP) — Drawing parallels with the Vietnam war, a U.S. official has warned Turkey to restrain its battle against Kurdish rebels from becoming an offensive against civilians.

But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke tried to ease concern over the prospect of U.S. sanctions because of Turkish human rights violations.

"I think it will be extremely unproductive to leave the impression that human rights... will become something that will rupture the U.S.-Turkish relations," he added.

Turkey is accused of raz-ing villages and forcing evacuations in its fight against Kurdish separatists in southeast Turkey. Turkish police are also accused of systematic torture of suspected rebels and others.

Turkish officials deny any support for rights abuses.

But the State Department's 1994 report said the human rights situation had worsened significantly in Turkey, and Mr. Holbrooke said the government must halt any harm to innocent civilians during attacks on rebels.

U.S. human rights groups have been pressing to block the sale of U.S. cluster bombs to Turkey because they could be used against Kurdish civilians.

The U.S. Congress froze 10 per cent of Turkey's \$365 million in U.S. military aid in August, pending a human rights review.

"They are aware there are problems... I was struck by the fact that all the Turkish officials I talked to thought about the need to bring full human rights to Turkey... through legal means and through strict enforcement of existing laws and through improvement of some of those laws," Mr. Holbrooke said.

His visit also came at a time when Turkey is troubled about a proposal by some U.S. lawmakers to deny U.S. aid to Turkey for refusing the transfer of supplies to Armenian refugees through Turkey.

Neighbours Armenia and Turkey have been enemies for decades because of claims that up to 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in 1915. Turkey denies any such massacre.

Mr. Holbrooke said the Turkish and Armenian relations should be improved.

"On Turkish-Armenian relations, which is so frayed with history, emotion, misunderstanding and conflicting views of history, our view is very simple. Your two countries... must find way to move on to the future."

## Canadians seek Clinton support in Quebec row

OTTAWA (R) — Supporters and foes of Quebec independence both hope to use a state visit by President Bill Clinton to Canada this week to promote their cause.

But U.S. officials said Mr. Clinton will try to stay out of the internal squabble during the two-day trip starting Thursday.

Mr. Clinton will hold extensive talks with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and will meet briefly Friday with Lucien Bouchard, the leader of the Quebec separatist party in the Canadian parliament.

Government officials said Mr. Chretien will tell Mr. Clinton privately what he says to Canadians publicly, that he has faith in the fate of the country.

The government of French-speaking Quebec plans to hold a referendum sometime this year on whether the province should secede from Canada.

"Chretien will tell him Quebecers will opt for Canada," a senior Canadian government official said Tuesday.

The U.S. has always tried to stay out of the debate, sticking to an official line that the Quebec problem is an internal matter for Canada. U.S. Ambassador to Canada James Blanchard repeated last week that Mr. Clinton does not intend to get dragged into the debate.

But in Canada, Mr. Clinton's every word on the subject of Quebec will be dissected by politicians and the media, particularly a speech to the Canadian parliament Thursday.

U.S. officials said that during his visit Mr. Clinton will highlight the "special relationship" the two countries with the world's longest undefended border enjoy.

They are downplaying Mr. Clinton's talks with the Quebec separatist leader Bouchard as a "normal courtesy meeting."

But Mr. Bouchard is using the Clinton visit to make a dramatic return to public life after his leg was amputated in a near fatal brush with a

flesh-eating disease.

Mr. Bouchard ruffled some feathers in Ottawa by writing directly to Mr. Clinton to ask for the meeting. At first, Mr. Chretien reacted coolly to the request but decided to allow the meeting to avoid making it a major issue.

Mr. Bouchard became leader of the official opposition in Canada's parliament in October 1993 after his Bloc Quebecois party won most of the seats in Quebec.

Mr. Bouchard told the Quebec City newspaper *Le Soleil* this week he hopes to convince Mr. Clinton to adopt an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards Quebec independence.

He said he will remind Mr. Clinton that Quebec separatists have been democratically-elected, and will only separate if a majority of Quebec citizens vote for independence in the referendum.

"I am going to explain to him that ours is not an anti-American project. To the contrary," Mr. Bouchard was quoted as saying.

Mr. Bouchard also plans to underline that Quebecers are free traders and strong supporters of the free trade agreement with the United States, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Quebec separatists have been saying that if the province separates, it would quickly seek to join NAFTA. This has stirred controversy because both the United States and Canada have made it clear that membership in NAFTA would not be automatic.

"Obviously they (Quebec separatists) want the Americans to see them as not being a major economic or political threat and to show they are not radicals," said University of Toronto political scientist Richard Simeon.

"What the (separatists) also want to show is that they are taken seriously by other countries. The more they can show that they are on reasonable good terms with the United States, the better it is for them," he said.

## EU fails to agree on animal transport compromise

BRUSSELS (R) — European Union (EU) farm ministers failed to agree a compromise to improve conditions for animals transported for slaughter and will try again possibly next month.

German Farm Minister Jochen Borchert said. "There was no agreement possible tonight, it's postponed," Mr. Borchert told Reuters after marathon talks in Brussels, lobbied by animal rights activists demanding better conditions for livestock transported across the bloc.

The ministers had tried to break an 18-month impasse

between northern countries exporting live animals and southern importers over how long animals can be transported.

French film star Brigitte Bardot and other animal rights activists, who demonstrated outside the farm ministers' meeting Monday, want a maximum eight-hour journey limit.

France, which holds the rotating EU presidency, had put towards a compromise that journey times, watering and feeding intervals and rest times should vary according to the type of farm animal.

## CIA sends spies to Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — The CIA has confirmed that it had enlisted spies from its covert operations branch, better known for cloak-and-dagger work abroad, to help boost the agency's standing with the U.S. Congress.

"This is not a lobbying effort," a spokesman said, referring to the new Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mission, disclosed by the New York Times, that aims at burnishing the agency's image with lawmakers who hold its purse-strings.

"The intent is to better communicate with members of Congress about what we do here," CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said, alluding to the Operations Directorate, which recruits foreign agents, gathers secrets and carries out covert tasks abroad at presidential request.

He said the work of the Operations Directorate, which takes on such tasks as penetrating terrorist cells "is generally not well understood."

The New York Times in its Tuesday edition published excerpts of a directive describing the CIA mission. The memo was from higher-ups to the clandestine branch, which accounts for perhaps one-third of the agency's estimated 18,000 employees.

In enlisting the help of operatives who normally work under cover abroad, Mr. Mansfield said, the Central Intelligence Agency hoped to provide members of Congress "an accurate portrayal of significant ongoing activities — both positive and negative — as well as articulate our vision for the future."

Most CIA employees work in one of the three other CIA directorates: the Directorate of Intelligence, which analyses, produces and disseminates intelligence on foreign policy issues science and technology as well as administration.

The classified message to operatives stirred criticism on the ground it might involve spies in inappropriate lobbying of Congress. The Operations Directorate was rocked a year ago by the arrest of one of its own, Aldrich Ames, for spying for Moscow for nine of his 31 years at the CIA.

The memo, sent last month, asked case officers to list everyone in Congress with whom they had "personal ties" or a "working relationship" as part of the new programme.

Reflecting the covert branch's high opinion of itself as the heart of the CIA, the directive said that "the agency's standing with the Con-

gress is linked inextricably to the Hill's view of the Directorate of Operations."

"A not-to-be-understated factor in our engagement of members is a personal one," the directive added. "Many of you have established mutually respectful relationships with congressional members," while "others have school or family ties."

The CIA confirmed the accuracy of the quotes published by the New York Times without releasing a copy of the memo. The new CIA mission was disclosed ahead of Senate confirmation hearings of Michael Carns, a retired air force general and CIA outsider who is President Clinton's choice to replace James Woolsey.

Mr. Woolsey resigned in December under criticism in Congress for his handling of CIA failings — chiefly on the operational side — that let Ames spy for so long without being detected.

Steven Aftergood, a critic of government secrecy at the private Federation of American Scientists, branded the programme, as described in the memo, as a "misguided if not illegal attempt to influence Congress."

Federal employees are barred from lobbying Congress or spending appropriated funds on publicity or propaganda.

## British playwright Robert Bolt dies

LONDON (R) — British playwright and screenwriter Robert Bolt, a master of historical epics who won Oscars for *Tom Jivago* and *A Man For All Seasons*, has died aged 70, his agent said Wednesday.

Bolt's partnership with director David Lean in the 1960s, producing such blockbuster films as *Lawrence Of Arabia*, took Hollywood by storm and both men were garlanded with awards.

"He died on Monday night. It was quite peaceful. He passed away at home with Sarah (his wife actress Sarah Miles) beside him," said a spokeswoman for Bolt's agent Casarotto Ramsay.

"On Turkish-Armenian relations, which is so frayed with history, emotion, misunderstanding and conflicting views of history, our view is very simple. Your two countries... must find way to move on to the future."

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Nicole Brown Simpson's killer probably attacked her first, then jumped Ronald Goldman and fought him ferociously, a police detective testified Tuesday at the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Detective Tom Lange, in his second day of testimony, depicted a fierce struggle between Mr. Goldman and his killer outside Ms. Simpson's condominium on June 12.

Simpson, a film actor and former American football star, is charged with both murders. He has denied committing them.

Prosecutor Marcia Clark flashed photographs of bloody scenes on a courtroom screen, including one of Ms. Simpson's bare feet wedged under the bottom of the gate to her apartment building.

Ms. Simpson "obviously didn't walk through the blood during the struggle," so "perhaps went down initially before a fight really ensued with the other victim," Officer Lange said.

Ms. Clark showed photos of Ronald Goldman's crumpled body, including one not seen before: A close-up of his torso and bloodsoaked jeans. The photograph brought gasps from his stepmother and sister in the courtroom.

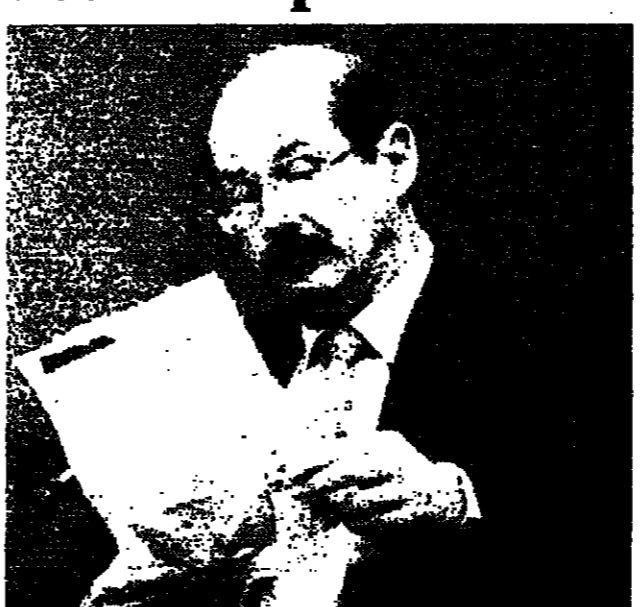
Officer Lange said there was blood on the soles of Mr. Goldman's white shoes and blood soaked through one toe, indicating he had struggled with his assailant while Ms. Simpson's blood flowed nearby.

Mr. Goldman, whose body was curled around a tree stump, also had defensive wounds on his hands, and his shirt was pulled up his back, the detective said.

Prosecutors have said Ms. Simpson was the intended target and Mr. Goldman was killed because he was at the wrong place at the wrong time, returning eyesores left at the Los Angeles restaurant where he worked as a waiter and where Ms. Simpson ate her last meal.

Before Officer Lange took the stand for a second day, Judge Lance Ito ordered a key defence witness to appear in court Friday so he can decide whether her testimony might be videotaped or immediately presented to jurors, interrupting the prosecution case.

The defence warned that Rosa Lopez, a maid for Simpson's neighbour who could give Simpson an alibi for the night of the murders,



Detective Tom Lange, of the Los Angeles Police Department, looks at a bag containing the glasses of Juditha Brown, the mother of murder victim Nicole Brown Simpson, during the O.J. Simpson trial in Los Angeles. Officer Lange testified that he believes Nicole Brown Simpson was killed first and did not resist, but that Ron Goldman, who was returning the glasses, put up a fight (AFP photo)

Simpson was the intended target and Mr. Goldman was killed because he was at the wrong place at the wrong time, returning eyesores left at the Los Angeles restaurant where he worked as a waiter and where Ms. Simpson ate her last meal.

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The defence warned that Rosa Lopez, a maid for Simpson's neighbour who could give Simpson an alibi for the night of the murders,

wants to leave the country for her native El Salvador because of what she feels is media harassment.

The defence says Ms. Lopez will testify that she saw Simpson's white Bronco vehicle parked in the street outside his home at 10:15 p.m. on June 12, the time prosecutors say the murders took place.

With no known witness to the crime and a coroner unable to fix the time of death, prosecutors have relied on testimony about Ms. Simpson's barking dog to establish when the murders took place.

If Judge Ito decides there is no risk of Ms. Lopez fleeing the country, she will be ordered to testify when the defence side of the case is

## 84 foreign stars named to culture order

PARIS (AFP) — Eighty-four foreign celebrities were among the class of 1994 receiving France's highest cultural order, the Culture Ministry said here Tuesday.

The stars named to the various ranks of the Order of Arts and Letters include 38 from the silver screen, and 29 and 14 from the worlds of music and literature respectively.

Those weighing in with the highest grade of Commander included U.S. actress Lauren Bacall and legendary movie directors, Americans Blake Edwards and Stanley Kubrick and Italian Franco Zeffirelli. They were joined by conductor Sir Georg Solti and a clutch of opera singers including Italian sopranos Mirella Freni and Renata Scotta and German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and U.S. author John Updike.

The order's new Officers included thespians Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Dustin Hoffman, Vanessa Redgrave, and Meryl Streep, and directors Steven Spielberg, Pedro Almodovar, Peter Greenaway and James Ivory.

Added to the ranks of the Knights, meanwhile, were British mezzo-soprano Dame Janet Baker and writer Julian Barnes.

Madonna: I'll quit when I'm bored

LONDON (R) — Rock superstar Madonna said she won't quit singing until she gets bored. Faced with a barrage of personal questions at a London press conference, she said she was not pregnant and went all coy when asked to name her latest boyfriend.

Madonna was visiting London for the first time in two years — to appear as the opening act at the Brit Awards, the music industry Oscars. She said she was almost 99 per cent sure she would go on tour again with her latest album and looked forward with eager anticipation to her starring role in the film of *Evita*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Alan Parker (who made the hit film musical *The Commitments*) will be directing and he is out looking for locations now. I would like to make it in Buenos Aires," she said after landing the coveted role. Reporters from Britain's tabloids outdid each other in trying to put the most facile question to one of the world's most enduring rock stars. "No I am not pregnant," said the raunchy star who has been through almost as many changes of image as rock chameleon David Bowie. Asked who her latest boyfriend was, she shyly twisted her blonde hair and said: "He is not a basketball player or a bullfighter." Asked what she would like any son or daughter of hers to know about her, Madonna said: "I wouldn't hide anything. I would like them to know me completely."

Hanks defends Forrest Gump at Harvard awards

CAMBRIDGE, Mass (R) — In order to earn the "pudding pot" from Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals Troupe, Oscar nominee Tom Hanks had to throw darts at pictures of his opponents. Hanks, who has been nominated as best actor for *Forrest Gump*, had to play "nail the nominees," throwing darts at pictures of fellow best actor nominees, including Paul Newman and John Travolta. "Not bad for a guy who didn't even make it through Sacramento State University," said Hanks, the theatrical company's 28th Man of the Year. Last year Hanks won an Oscar as best actor for his role as Andrew Beckett, a lawyer suffering from AIDS, in the movie *Philadelphia*. "This is quite an experience, a thrill and an honour," Hanks said upon receiving the pot. The Hasty Pudding is the oldest acting company in the United States, and has presented Man and Woman of the Year Awards since 1951. Hanks joins a long list of distinguished actors, including Tom Cruise, who have won the Pudding Pot. Last week actress Michelle Pfeiffer accepted this year's Woman of the Year Award. Asked what *Forrest Gump* would say about the award, Hanks said, "where's the pudding?" Hanks said he is "incensed" at people who say *Forrest Gump* is a conservative diatribe. "I don't think there is a moral or message (in the movie) except 'Love your kids,'" Hanks said.



Nicaraguan General Humberto Ortega (centre), commander of the armed forces says goodbye to a soldier in Managua, after handing command of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces to Joaquín Cuadra (left). Gen. Ortega led the army for five years (AFP photo)

## Ortega gives up command of Nicaraguan army

MANAGUA (R) — General Humberto Ortega handed over command of Nicaragua's army to General Joaquín Cuadra Tuesday in the first peaceful transfer of the top military post in the country's history.

Ortega was the last of the former ruling Sandinistas to hold a major government post and had led the army since its formation in 1979 out of the ranks of guerrilla fighters who overthrew military dictator Anastasio Somo-

za. Gen. Cuadra, 43, has been second in command to Gen. Ortega since the army was founded but is said by army officers to be strictly a military man and less political than his predecessor.

Gen. Ortega was sent off with a 21-cannon salute and appearances by top government officials, his brother and former President Daniel Ortega, and a host of foreign diplomats.

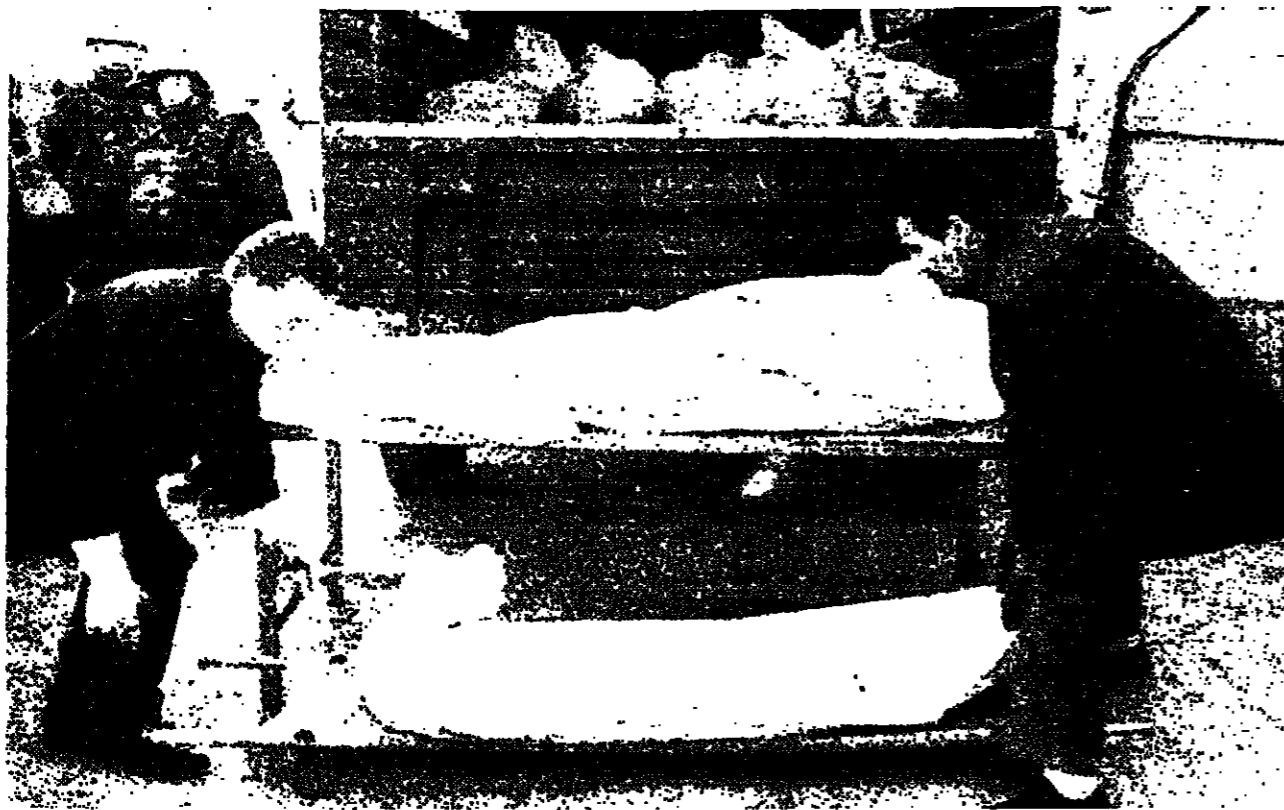
Also present was a massive

display of military hardware including tanks, mine-planters and an array of heavy guns, all of it supplied in the 1980s by the former Soviet Union.

"I feel content because I have completed one duty more in my life, having helped Nicaragua have an army that does not belong to the Sandinista Front... but is an army of the nation," Gen. Ortega said in his farewell speech.

Mr. Goldman, whose body was curled around a tree stump, also had defensive wounds on his hands, and his shirt was pulled up his back, the detective said.

Prosecutors have said Ms. Simpson was the intended target and Mr. Goldman was killed because he was at the wrong place at the wrong time, returning eyesores left at the Los Angeles restaurant where he worked as a waiter and where Ms. Simpson ate her last meal.



Workers of the Sarajevo morgue unload dead bodies from a U.N. truck. The mortal remains of ten Bosnian soldiers, who were killed in action a few months ago and previously buried in the Serb cemetery in Lukavica, were exchanged with the corpses of seven Serb soldiers in a recent exchange of war-victims (AFP photo)

## U.K., Ireland unveil N. Ireland peace plans

BELFAST (R) — Britain and Ireland launched bold plans for a Northern Ireland political settlement Wednesday, gambling that six months of peace would persuade reluctant Protestants to give the historic proposals a chance.

British Prime Minister John Major, bidding to end years of bloodshed, appealed to the people of the British-ruled province to shed the prejudices of the past and judge the "framework document" strictly on its merits.

"Read it, study it, think about it, discuss it, talk about it... let it mature. Think of the overall prize that lies at the end," Mr. Major implored them at a press conference.

"This is not the time for snap judgements," Mr. Major, flanked by his Irish counterpart John Bruton, told a news conference. "We have travelled a long way but not yet far enough... the dialogue of the deaf has ended."

The three-point plan, which includes a new Northern Ireland Assembly and cross-border bodies to cement trust and economic cooperation, ran into hostility from Protestant Unionists who fear it will end British sovereignty in the province.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the hardline Demo-

cratic Unionist Party, termed the document, fruit of two years Anglo-Irish negotiation, "an eviction notice (for Northern Ireland) to leave the United Kingdom."

Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major dismissed such fears as unfounded and said the plan was in essence a discussion document to be approved at all-party talks, ratified in a Northern Ireland referendum and then submitted to parliament.

"It is a framework for discussion not a blueprint to be imposed over the heads of anyone," Mr. Bruton said. "Its purpose is to facilitate not to pre-empt dialogue."

The "framework document" seeks to capitalise on ceasefires in September by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which fought to end British rule for 25 years, and loyalist gunmen who killed Catholics in a campaign to maintain the link with London.

It proposes: — Setting up a new 90-seat Northern Ireland Assembly elected by proportional representation to share power between the 60 per cent Protestant majority and Catholic minority.

— Changing Britain's and Ireland's constitutional claims to Northern Ireland to put the onus on its people to work out new relationships

within the province and with Ireland.

— Setting up a cross-border body from the assembly and Irish parliament to oversee economic cooperation. Its decisions would have to be reached by unanimity giving all sides a veto.

— Strengthening current Anglo-Irish cooperation through a permanent inter-governmental conference and secretariat.

— Drafting a bill of rights to safeguard the cultural and civil rights of Unionists and nationalists, mostly Catholics.

Mr. Bruton told the news conference: "The ending of all campaigns of paramilitary violence last autumn has created an unrivalled opportunity for such dialogue to take place with the reasonable prospect of a successful conclusion."

The IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, and groups close to loyalist gunmen are holding exploratory talks with Britain. But Mr. Major made clear the "decommissioning" of their arsenals was vital, if they wanted to join new all-party talks.

Constitutional change and a new assembly are key demands of Unionists, but they have repeatedly threatened to bring down Mr. Major's embattled minority government if they believe the prop-

osals will push the province towards Irish reunification.

The assembly will hold the key to future relationships with the Irish Republic and replace a Protestant-dominated assembly which Britain scrapped in 1972 because of civil strife.

The document repeats key provisions of the December 1993 Downing Street Declaration issued by the London and Dublin governments which lured the guerrillas' political spokesmen into talks by saying the province's status could only change by majority consent.

The broad thrust of the proposals would seek to blur the border between the two neighbours in the borderless Europe of the 1990s, despite the fact that fearful Unionists want the border strengthened by constitutional guarantees.

It has echoes of a 1973 British power-sharing plan which was wrecked by diehard Unionists who saw in it a blueprint for merger with the 3.5 million people of the Irish Republic.

The "Sunningdale Agreement" set up a power-sharing assembly and planned to establish a cross-border Council of Ireland to get all sides talking, but was torpedoed by Unionist politicians and a strike by Protestant workers.

## Rao's Congress Party lags in Indian state poll

GUWAHATI, India (R) — India's ruling Congress Party trailed a regional rival Wednesday in the first of six states to count ballots in assembly elections that could prove pivotal for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

With 39 of 59 races decided in the northeastern state of Manipur, the opposition Manipur People's Party (MPP) had clinched 14 seats to 12 for Congress.

Congress, which won 26 of 60 seats in the last polls, in 1990, led the outgoing government with the support of independents but was expected to finish neck and neck with the MPP in a hung assembly.

Polling in one constituency in the insurgency-riven state was postponed following the murder of a candidate during an election campaign in

which at least 11 people were killed.

Manipur is one of six states holding assembly polls that will test the political winds before general elections that Mr. Rao wants to hold by March, 1996.

State elections have no direct bearing on the composition of the national parliament or the federal government.

But a poor Congress showing in three of four states that voted late last year undermined Mr. Rao's authority and prompted finger-pointing inside a party that has ruled India for all but three years since it won independence in 1947.

Congress was widely expected to suffer setbacks in this round of state polling, including in India's richest state, Maharashtra, which voted earlier this month.

Mr. Rao has said he will reshuffle his cabinet after the biggest states, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, begin counting votes on March 11.

He will have a chance to seize the political initiative on March 15 when his government announces the budget for the financial year beginning April 1.

The budget sets the government's policy and spending priorities for the following year and can have an important impact on voters. It was unclear whether a dissident Congress faction led by former cabinet minister Arjun Singh, who resigned in December in protest against Mr. Rao's policies, would mount a challenge or if the opposition would seek to push through a no-confidence motion, prompting early general elections.

Mr. Rao, who launched

ground-breaking economic reforms after taking power in 1991, has vowed to serve out his five-year term and put elections off until March, 1996.

Manipur Chief Minister Rishang Keishing, who recaptured his constituency, predicted his party, Congress, would end up with more seats than the MPP but would fall short of an outright majority.

"We will get the single largest majority but not an absolute majority," he told Reuters.

"We plan to get 20 seats. The MPP may get 14 or 15." Independents and smaller parties had won eight seats, up from three in 1990, giving them important bargaining power in the horse-trading that was expected to follow the elections.

Mr. Rao, who launched

## U.N. convoy reaches Bihac

### Envoys to meet Milosevic today

SARAJEVO (R) — A United Nations aid convoy, blocked for two days by Muslim rebels and their Croatian Serb allies, crossed the frontlines into government-held territory in Bosnia's embattled Bihac enclave Wednesday.

"It was allowed through this morning," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Kris Janowski told Reuters. "It's good news but again, let's hope it's not a one-off."

Thousands of civilians are going hungry in Bihac, the most active war front in the Balkans conflict, while a Jan. 1 ceasefire has cooled fighting elsewhere.

Ten trucks reached Cazins in the middle of the north-western enclave after spending the night in the Muslim rebel stronghold of Velika Kladusa, just over the border with Croatia.

The rebels, who are loyal to businessman-politician Fikret Abdic, and the Serbs had held up the convoy for two days. It hopes to reach Bihac town, where the Sarajevo government's 5th Corps and thousands of civilians are trapped.

"Supplies are running very, very low. We had a convoy in there three days ago and people were seen to be starving, including obviously children," convoy leader Mike Davies told Reuters in Velika Kladusa Tuesday night.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy loaded with food and medicine left the Croatian capital Zagreb for Bihac Wednesday. The Serb and Muslim rebel forces had promised to let it through, an ICRC spokeswoman in Zagreb said.

The rebels and the Serbs from the breakaway Krajina region in Croatia have consistently blocked regular deliveries of food aid since May 1994. The United Nations has accused them of using food as a weapon of war.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi Tuesday won agreement from Krajina Serb leaders in their self-declared capital Knin to cease harassment.

The Krajina Serbs are involved in the two most immediately dangerous areas in the multiple conflicts in the

former Yugoslavia. The fighting in Bihac, which also involves their Bosnian Serb kind, threatens to blow apart the ceasefire aimed at encouraging peace moves.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, meanwhile, has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave Croatia and foreign officials fear a new Serb-Croat war could break out to decide Krajina's fate.

Mr. Akashi saw a glimmer of hope Tuesday that negotiation might prevail over force to resolve the issue, saying Krajina Serb leader Milan Markic indicated in their meeting that he sought a diplomatic solution.

"I think there is a willingness to commence fruitful dialogue and that's the first time they have made an indication of that kind," Mr. Akashi said.

Mr. Markic said his government and people wanted peace but he demanded that Zagreb allow the U.N. forces, whose mandate expires on March 1, to stay.

The minority Serbs revolted against Croatia's 1991 declaration of independence from Serbian-led federal

Yugoslavia and seized a third of the state with Yugoslav army help.

With the shaky ceasefire in Bosnia due to run out at the end of March, diplomats and U.N. officials are stepping up their peace efforts.

France, Germany and Britain are sending envoys to Belgrade Thursday for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to convince him to accept a new international peace plan.

Mr. Milosevic told Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev at the weekend he would consider it only if U.N. sanctions imposed on Serbia for its part in the conflict are lifted.

The plan for recognition of the different republics would, at least on paper, and the dream of a "greater Serbia."

The "contact group", which also includes the United States, continues to back a plan for dividing Bosnia roughly in half between rebel Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance. But the Bosnian Serbs, who control two-thirds of the former Yugoslav republic, have repeatedly rejected it.

## S. Korea says no to war games with U.S.

SEOUL (R) — South Korea said Wednesday it had no immediate plans to hold a major military exercise with the United States, a move likely to ease strained relations with the Communist North.

Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told foreign correspondents Seoul was trying to maintain a low-key policy over contentious issues such as the annual round of war games, code-named Team Spirit, which Pyongyang lambasts as a rehearsal for invasion.

"We have been trying very hard not to say anything about Team Spirit because we do not want to give North Korea an excuse to sidetrack from the main issues and try to justify the prolongation of their internal policies," Mr. Lee said.

"It is a foregone conclusion that we are not going to have a major exercise on our side at this time," he said.

Further steps to persuade Pyongyang to end its international isolation will be taken this week during a visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord.

Mr. Lord, who arrived Wednesday for a four-day stay, is expected to discuss plans to encourage the North to speed up detente following last October's landmark nuclear agreement between the United States and North Korea.

Under the deal, Pyongyang agreed to halt and eventually dismantle its nuclear programme in return for Washington providing \$4.5 billion in nuclear technology and alternative energy sources.

Mr. Lord will meet Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myoung and Deputy Prime Minister Rha Woong-Bae during his visit. The official cancellation of this year's Team Spirit is expected to be announced Saturday, the final day of Mr. Lord's visit.

Last year, Team Spirit was shelved in a bid to keep the North negotiating the nuclear accord, which was eventually signed in Geneva and hailed as the best chance yet to break the inter-Korean cold war deadlock.

Part of the deal is a requirement for Seoul and Pyongyang to resume meaningful cross-border talks on detente and reunification.

This has not yet happened and Pyongyang's anti-South propaganda campaign has recently been particularly virulent.

Mr. Lee said Seoul had decided the quiet approach towards the North was the best option to relieve tensions that erupted last year when Pyongyang defied the world over its nuclear programme, fueling fears in the West that it was developing an atomic arsenal.

"We will wait, we are trying not to make things any more difficult. The best thing for us to do is not to say very much. We will try to be relatively quiet and let them make a decision," Mr. Lee said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (2nd right) and his Belarus counterpart Alexander Lukashenko (right) pass by a line of honor guards during a wreath laying ceremony in Minsk (AFP photo)

## Russia, Belarus sign friendship pact

MINSK (R) — The presidents of Russia and Belarus signed a milestone friendship and cooperation treaty but failed to agree on Russian oil supplies to Belarus.

Boris Yeltsin and Alexander Lukashenko, who also signed treaties on customs regulations and joint protection of outside borders, were keen to show the special links between the two Slav states in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

As far as Russia's foreign policy is concerned, relations with the CIS members are a priority," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference after the signing ceremony.

"As far as our relations with the CIS member states are concerned, relations with Belarus are a priority," he added. "It is the priority of priorities."

But an adviser to Mr. Lukashenko told Reuters that the two presidents had failed to reach any agreement on a Belarus request for cheaper oil deliveries from Russia, an issue souring bilateral relations.

"Oil remains one of the main issues which have not been resolved," said the official who asked not to be named.

Belarus, fully dependent on Russian energy resources, suffered badly in 1992 when Moscow abandoned the practice of supplying oil and gas at special prices for ex-Soviet republics.

Mr. Yeltsin looked fit, in sharp contrast to a stumbling performance at a CIS summit in Alma-Ata earlier this month. He was accompanied by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Foreign Minis-

ter Andrei Kozyrev. The aspirations of the Russian and Belarus leaders to bring their countries closer together could be threatened.

Pro-Communist factions in the Belarus parliament Monday came close to initiating a vote which would have denounced the December 1991 deal setting up the CIS, which was signed by Mr. Yeltsin and the then leaders of Belarus and Ukraine.

Mr. Yeltsin's visit has also raised the suspicions of Belarus nationalists watching for any possible move by Moscow to pull their republic back into Russia's orbit.

Several dozen supporters of the Belarus Popular Front gathered near Victory Square in central Minsk to protest against Mr. Yeltsin's handling of the crisis in the Chechnya region.

## Burmese troops pour into captured rebel base

WANG KAEW, Thailand (R) — Troops saying they were from a Karen rebel splinter group but identified by Thai army officers as Burmese, poured into the former guerrilla base in Kawmoora Wednesday, consolidating their hold on it.

In full view from across the Thai-Burmese border river, hundreds of soldiers carrying Burmese army G-3 and G-4 rifles strolled around the camp and dug in at bunkers left behind by Karen guerrillas who abandoned the stronghold Tuesday.

Some swam in the River Moei only metres from a decomposing body slowly drifting downstream. "No Burma here, we are DKBA," a soldier wearing a Burmese army uniform and identifying himself as the camp commander yelled across the river.

"This is a victory of the DKBA," he shouted from Kawmoora, where a yellow DKBA flag flew.

Burma's state television said Tuesday the Democratic Kayin (Karen) Buddhist Army (DKBA), a rebel splinter group, seized the Karen base.

Thai army officers monitoring the fighting said seven Burmese army battalions, or 3,000 troops, plus an extensive battery of Burmese army heavy weapons, were deployed against the 1,000 defenders of Kawmoora.

Karen National Union (KNU) guerrillas captured and displayed Burmese army battalion flags, documents and weapons after beating back an attack on Kawmoora on Feb. 8 in which more than 50 Burmese soldiers were killed.

KNU guerrillas abandoned Kawmoora after an intense bombardment, which they alleged included chemical shells.

The soldier who identified himself as the new camp commander said the retreating rebels left nothing behind. "No weapons, no dead bodies, nothing here," he shouted.

Burmese television, in a broadcast monitored in Thailand, made no mention of army involvement in the offensive.

"The DKBA started the operation on Feb. 8 and today they occupied Kawmoora," state-run television

said Tuesday.

The DKBA was formed in December by 500 rank-and-file Buddhists who mutinied against the majority-Christian KNU leadership.

They later acted as guides when Burmese forces took the guerrilla headquarters at Manerplaw in late January. Guerrilla sources said a volunteer soldier from Japan was among the Karen casualties at Kawmoora.

A Karen officer said a Japanese man he identified as Tsutomu Imaei, who was fighting alongside KNU guerrillas, was hit by shrapnel and killed in a Burmese army attack on Feb. 8.

Two other Japanese volunteers were believed to be among the 1,000 guerrillas who abandoned Kawmoora and crossed into Thailand Tuesday, the guerrilla said.

The Karen rebels, smarting from the loss of their last major stronghold on the Thai-Burma border, were regrouping Wednesday for a new struggle — a guerrilla war — against the forces of the Burmese junta, rebel sources said.

In Jakarta, Burmese Ambassador Nyi Nyi Than

boasted in a statement that there was "not an inch of area under the control of the KNU in Myanmar (Burma) any more."

"A few (rebels) may cross and recross the rugged 2,400-kilometre (1,500-mile) Thai-Myanmar border. But Thai and Myanmar authorities, and the Democratic Kayan and Buddhist Army, will ensure that future KNU terrorist activities will be effectively absent," he said.

Thai forces disarmed the KNU. But overnight, many of the rebels crossed back into Burma where they were awaiting orders for the guerrilla war the KNU has vowed to wage against the Rangoon junta, Karen border sources said.

One KNU official said the fighters were being regrouped under KNU Battalion Six in the area of the state capital of Moulmein, which is inland from Mae Sot.

Thai Defence Minister Vichit Sookmark said meanwhile Thailand would coordinate with the Rangoon government over the influx of Burmese into Thailand.

Week

## Jordan Times

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## Time on nobody's side

CHAIRMAN YASSER Arafat's crisis meeting with his Executive Committee in Cairo Tuesday reflects the gloom that surrounds the stalemated Israeli-Palestinian talks. "The process must be re-examined in a radical and sweeping way," suggested Yasser Arafat, a close confidant of Mr. Arafat, in the wake of the Cairo meeting.

The PLO's answer to the existing logjam in the peace talks, though, appears to lie in greater and deeper regional involvement by parties ranging from Egypt to the U.S. to Russia to Norway. Pinning hopes on such wider participation may still prove fruitless in settling the major standoffs between the parties, especially over the redeployment of the Israeli occupying forces away from the urban areas and holding the national Palestinian elections, already seven months behind schedule. For one thing, Israel is not known to handle well regional or international pressures, assuming that such powers want to exercise their clout in defence of the peace talks on Palestinian autonomy.

For another, a country like the U.S., which enjoys special relations with the Jewish state, that can be used to save the Palestinian track from imminent collapse, may not wish to apply leverage with Israel at this particular point in time.

That leaves us to grapple with the Israeli public opinion which also seems too negative for the time being to want to accelerate peace talks with the Palestinians. And with the way the political cards are stacked in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may not be able to go farther than he has already in meeting legitimate demands by the Palestinian authority according to the obligations of the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

There is therefore every reason to be pessimistic about the ongoing efforts to defuse the Palestinian-Israeli deadlock. But any eventual collapse in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in conjunction with the current stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts could prove to be extremely detrimental to regional peace and security. When the existing major differences between Egypt and Israel are also added to the pile of negative news, the emerging picture may indeed unravel three years of work to promote peace in the Middle East. Prime Minister Rabin and his constituency may have to reckon with these ramifications if they truly want to collect on the huge investment they made so far in the peace operation.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday criticised Jordanian opposition parties whose members recently paid a visit to Syria, implying that they meant harm to Jordan's political stand. Fahd Al Fanek said the political parties that visited Damascus did not go there to meet their counterparts of opposition groups simply because there is no opposition parties in Syria. They went in order to make contacts with the ruling regime in Damascus, said the writer. He asked: Does the Political Party Law allow political groups in Jordan to make contacts with governments abroad? He said that the political parties did not go to Damascus to demand that Syria have political pluralism like Jordan or to demand the release of political detainees who have spent more than 25 years in jail for opposing the regime or to demand that Syria stop its secret or open negotiations with Israel. These political parties consider Jordan as constituting the southern flank of greater Syria; and this description is true geographically, he added. But, he said, what is not acceptable is to seek to annex Jordan to Syria politically, so that the Kingdom would assume a role similar to that of Lebanon on the western flank.

SALEH QALLAB, a writer in Al Dustour, said Israel was trying to find a pretext at all costs to avoid signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) claiming that Iran posed a nuclear threat to the Jewish state. Stressing that the 200 or so nuclear warheads at Israel's disposal constitute a permanent danger to the Arabs and Iran together, the writer said Tel Aviv's intransigence in this respect was bound to push the whole Middle East towards a nuclear arms race, with serious consequences for all its countries. Had Israel complied to U.N. resolutions and pulled out its forces from southern Lebanon, Hizbollah would have not emerged as a resistance group to occupation, and had Israel implemented the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians and pulled out its forces from Palestinian territory, there would have been no suicide bombing against the Israelis, he said. Had Israel not possessed nuclear bombs, the Middle East would have been a safer place and the prospect for Arabs and Muslims seeking to acquire similar weapons would not have been contemplated.

## The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

## Child neglect is child abuse and is a serious social disease

UNLIKE WHAT some people would have us believe, child abuse, in both its subtle and blatant forms, is quite widespread in our society. There are various levels of it, ranging from the physical to the psychological, mental, spiritual, intellectual and moral. Among us, there are parents who still beat up their children severely, who insult them cruelly, who swear on them in a most vulgar way, who oppress them, who oppress them, who inhibit them, who haunt them, who think and make decisions for them. And there are parents who spoil their kids, trivialise them, corrupt them, vulgarise them and so on. The latter are as bad as the former.

The level I wish to focus on here, which has a more public aspect to it, is what one may best call child neglect, a neglect which in many cases borders on almost abandonment and homelessness. This form of child abuse, stemming directly from parental indifference and even carelessness about the welfare of children, is manifested most aptly in a famous saying in our Arab society of today. It has become customary for many of us, when we speak of Arab parents critically in moments of frustration and disappointment, to say: "They breed and throw into the street." The saying, meant both metaphorically and literally, suggests that today's Arab family fails, in the majority of cases, to provide a good home for its members. As a result of the extreme lack of care, attention, guidance and love, and as a result of the unexciting, unchallenging, unsatisfying and unbearable atmosphere, children find themselves drifting into, and seeking refuge in the streets, alleys and corners of their neighbourhood.

I am not talking here about the beggars, the homeless, the runaway kids, the orphans, the peddlers and the "gangsters," whose number is on the increase. What I am talking about are normal kids who have parents and grandparents, i.e. your average boy in the so-called "popular" areas, who spend the entire day and a good part of the evening and night outside their homes.

Look at the way kids spend their day in these areas. I do not have exact statistical facts or figures, but I would say, on the basis of my own observation and first-hand accounts, that at least 50 per cent of kids in our "popular" neighbourhoods spend an average of eight hours a day, on school days, in the neighbourhood's dirty streets and alleys and 12 hours during holidays. Doing what? Well, killing time. They have so much time they do not know what to do with it.

They play soccer in the street, partly because not enough playgrounds are available, but mainly because playing ball in the street has become a habit in our society, even when playgrounds are close by. When they are not playing soccer, or when they finish doing so, they throw stones at each other, at birds, at cats, at cars passing by or at people. At times, while they sit and chat, they hold rocks in their hands and hammer at bricks in the sidewalk. Some bring old metal trays and slide down hilly roads, amusing people with the noise they make. When they get a little bored they drag garbage containers around and set fire to their contents, after giving them a thorough rummaging. They fight a little with each other, wrestle, swear, scream, then sing.

You find them out at all hours: At 6 or 7 in the morning, at 10, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, late at night. You find them when the weather is fair and nice, when the sun is hot, when it is cold and freezing, when it is raining and when it is windy. They come in all shapes and sizes: Two-year olds, five-year olds, 10-year olds, 15-year olds, 17-year olds. A friend of mine, who at times feels sorry for these kids and at times extremely irritated by them, says: "I often wonder whether these kids belong to anybody." The expression "stray kids" has become almost a household expression in the said areas.

One wonders about the mentality and the psychology of their parents? What kind of people are these parents? What are they made of? They do not seem to care whether these children feed or don't, whether they injure themselves or not, whether they are run over by cars or not, whether they study or not, whether they deteriorate or not, whether they keep bad company or not and whether they develop bad habits, bad manners, harass neighbours, damage, sabotage, steal, suck.

Their parents are not busier than anybody else. Most of them are labourers, drivers, vegetable sellers, grocery store owners, civil servants, teachers, etc. Even the busiest of the fathers can spare an hour or so everyday to direct his children. The mothers are primarily housewives who, despite the various chores they have to take care of, have plenty of time at their disposal, should they care. Knowingly or not, the fathers are generally irresponsible; the mothers are pathetically carefree.

But one does not wonder much. Parental irresponsibility is part and parcel of our society's overall irresponsibility.

during these gloomy backward times. How different are neglectful parents from teachers who do not teach, civil servants who are extremely uncommitted to their jobs and extremely inefficient, professional soccer players who disappoint us everytime they play, T.V. presenters who do not know how to present, interviewers who do not know how to interview, motorists who drive a Mercedes 200, 1995 and throw packs of cigarettes or Pepsi cans out of the window. This is a vicious circle at the heart of which lie ignorance, bad upbringing and bad education. Most parents are an outcome of the same street life they throw their children into.

The damage done to the kids and to society is tremendous. What do you expect children to grow up like without parental care and guidance? We all either have children or a first-hand experience with children and know that without guidelines, rules, regulations, much explanation, teaching, attention and care, children can easily grow to be brutes and monsters. Many kids in the neighbourhoods under discussion are extremely impolite, rude, vulgar, bad-mannered and obnoxious. Is this what we want our kids to be? Through this neglect, we are abusing them. It is their right to expect proper education and upbringing from us, and it is our duty to cater for their needs effectively. What moral values have we implanted in kids who stone cats and dogs to death in cold blood, who beat each other senseless, who smoke and, at times, drink at the age of 13, who swear on older people, who hold knives in their pockets and do not hesitate to use them.

The price our society pays is heavy. For one thing, the kids are a nuisance to the neighbours. A friend of mine, who happens to take his role as a parent a little more seriously than others, says: "The kids in our neighbourhood are a disturbance and a curse. We cannot sit peacefully for half an hour. The noise they make, the balls and stones they throw at us, the damage they make to our property are intolerable. My children cannot study in peace. The flowers we plant in the small garden are damaged either by the balls they throw at us or are plucked the minute they blossom or stepped at and destroyed." "You approach these kids and explain to them politely that they ought not to play in the streets, that they ought not to damage other people's property, that people have the right to enjoy a breezy afternoon without screams and vulgar words and stones, but they do not listen. If you happen to become a little angry with them and change your tone of voice, they swear on you. No understanding, no respect, no decency."

But the harm goes way beyond this. Are we surprised that the crime rate has risen sharply in the past few years: the stealing, the kidnapping, the killing? What do you expect the shape of society to be when the kids become men or women and take over? Inefficient, ignorant, immoral, irresponsible, vulgar, and backward.

The situation is gloomier than many people think, and a remedy is to be prescribed as urgently as possible. We need to wake up to the reality, which is clearer than the sun for those who care to see and stop hiding behind hollow slogans and ideals. We need, first, to talk to the parents through the various means at our disposal: the media, the pulpit, the schools, the universities and, more importantly, through the specialised institutions we have created but which are not doing the job properly.

We need honest to God social work. Where are the so-called social workers? Oughtn't they to reach out to these parents and talk to them? Could not they arrange with parents to have children do something useful in their spare time? The role of the social worker is quite visible and effective in many societies; why is not it so in ours?

The second thing we need to do is to start paying close attention to the performance of parents. I know this is extremely difficult to do and extremely sensitive. Parents in our society think their children are their property; they can do with them as they wish, and nobody has the right to interfere. But this attitude has got to change. Society, through the specialised institutions we hope to see revived and activated, has the right to check on parents, especially with regard to the problem cases.

Those parents who neglect their children ought to be warned, rebuked, and threatened. If they cannot, or do not want to, pay enough attention to their children, then the state ought to take over. Parenthood is a status to be deserved; and those who do not deserve to be parents ought to know that their kids can be taken from them and catered for by institutions or more caring and responsible parents. I do not mean this literally or hard-heartedly, but I feel that something along these lines will have to be done eventually.

The specialists and the experts can, perhaps, enlighten us about what precise steps we ought to take to alleviate or resolve this serious social problem. What do they think?

## Egypt playing poker in nuclear row with Israel

By Samia Nakhouli  
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt is playing a high-stakes poker game with Israel and the United States over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), risking a split in the triple alliance which has been the cornerstone of Middle East peace since 1979.

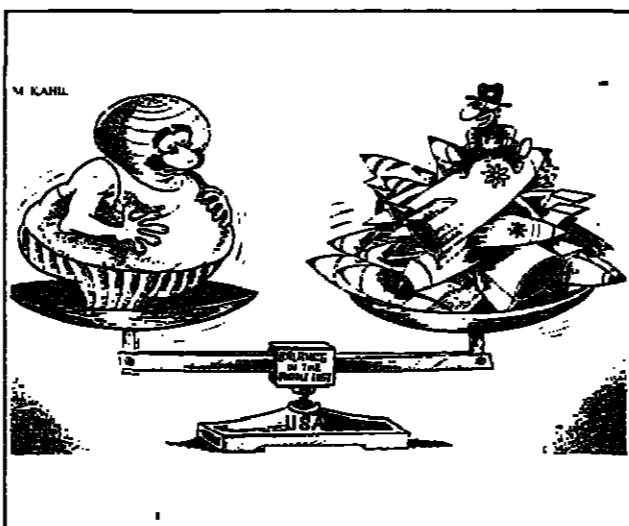
Everybody is sure Egypt will fail to drag Israel into signing the NPT, which has already brought relations between the two states to the lowest ebb in years.

So the question puzzling the West is why Egypt, famous for its skilled diplomacy, is taking such a risk by talking tough on Israel's nuclear programme.

Western diplomats link Egypt's attitude with the changes brought about by the rapid progress towards Middle East peace.

The peace process, they say, has shown that Egypt is ultimately dispensable. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel without Egyptian help or consultation, and the Syrians do not need the Egyptians either, though they continue to use them.

Middle East peace, with normal relations between Israel and the oil-rich Gulf states, would bring a flood of business opportunities



but Egypt, the diplomats say, is not well positioned to reap the fruits.

"They want to become once again the leaders of the Arab World. They are playing what they are best at — the political card since they have no economic power like Israel," one said.

The rise of Muslim fundamentalism also makes any tough stand against Israel popular in the streets, both of Egypt and the rest of the Arab World, the diplomats added.

The signs of Egypt's anxiety began last year when the Middle East economic summit in Casablanca, where half the businessmen were apparently Israelis, they

said. "As a result, the Egyptians felt on shaky ground and very nervous. They're anticipating a change in the Middle East and they're trying to take a lead in a making the environment as suitable for Egypt as possible," another diplomat said.

"In a word, the Egyptians are realigning themselves. They want to win equal status in a new peaceful Middle East... and establish a powerful balance by standing up to Israel."

The row over the nuclear treaty has broken out as the date approaches for an international conference on extending it.

Egypt, already a signatory, says it will not sign an extension until Israel does. Israel, widely believed to have 200 nuclear warheads, insists it will not sign the treaty until it is satisfied that countries like Iran, Iraq and Libya do not pose a threat to its existence.

If the extension of the NPT, due in April, goes through by majority vote then Egypt will remain bound to it by default. The treaty specifies a separate procedure for withdrawing.

"To some degree the Egyptians are playing a dangerous but a clever game. They are making a fuss but they are not saying they want to withdraw," one diplomat said.

"Everyone feels that playing this outspoken role has helped them get to centre stage," he added.

"By raising the stakes on the NPT, the Egyptians have changed the mood in the region. They have caused a problem. The (Muslim) hardliners must feel great," one source added.

But the diplomats believe things have gone out of hand.

"There is some ugly rhetoric between (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak. The rhetoric is escalating and the tension has risen," said one.

## For Saudi Arabia new challenges emerging

By Dhip Ganguly

The Associated Press

RIYADH — The driver studies his passenger in the mirror while gliding in a limousine along an illuminated expressway past mirrored skyscrapers. Determining the rider is a foreigner, the driver waves a disparaging hand.

"Saudi Arabia not good place to make money anymore," he complains in broken English.

After two decades as the financial powerhouse of the Middle East, a magnet for magnates and poor labourers alike, Saudi Arabia is being buffeted by money troubles and growing criticism of the long-ruling Al Saud family.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer and exporter, with one-quarter of the world's known oil reserves buried under its sands.

That had allowed the Al Sauds to provide a pampered standard of living for their subjects while retaining absolute control over their lives and destiny.

The cradle-to-grave welfare system provided free health care, education, subsidised electricity and water, unlimited domestic telephone calls. There was no income tax.

Now, all that is in flux. The country faces unprecedented problems caused by low oil prices, the staggering cost of the 1991 Gulf war and an increasingly outspoken opposition within Saudi Arabia's dominant Wahhabi Muslim sect.

In Riyadh, the capital, men in flowing robes sit in cafes, gossiping over cups of fragrant tea and cardamom-scented coffee about rising consumer prices and austerity measures introduced by the government.

Many people wonder if the government's social contract — unlimited largesse in return for unrestricted rule — is in peril.

Burdened with a Gulf-war debt of \$55 billion and a five-year dip in oil prices, the government is forcing a belt-tightening by turning to domestic revenues for a bigger share in financing the budget.

Oil exports, which earned about \$30 billion last year, now will provide around 75 per cent of government revenues. Still, by Western standards, the revenue burdens being put on ordinary Saudis remain well below international levels.

Gasoline prices went up from 9 cents a litre to 16 cents. Electricity and water fees were increased, small charges were levied for local phone calls and domestic air fares were raised 20 per cent.

No official estimates have been published on how much these measures will raise. But as an example, the Middle East Economic Survey estimated that the higher gasoline prices alone will raise around \$2.4 billion a year. All told, austerity measures could generate \$4 billion in additional revenue.

So far, there has been no attempt to introduce an income tax or slash the welfare system, moves that could be politically explosive. The government's approach has been welcomed by the international financial community.

After cutting spending last year, the government announced in January that its 1995 budget was being reduced a further 6 per cent. That left it with a budget deficit of \$4 billion, down from \$11 billion in 1994.

Bankers estimate Saudi Arabia's foreign debt at \$70 billion. That is not out of line by Western standards, but the speed with which it has risen to recent years has alarmed many economists and caused concern in Washington and other Western capitals that have long benefited from Saudi Arabia's seemingly bottomless coffers.

"There's every indication that this year will be better than the previous one," Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Aba Al Khail said.

Diplomats say the government wants to signal its determination to get its house in order and is prepared to take unpopular decisions to ensure fiscal discipline.

Saudi Arabia is largely a closed society. Much of the workings of government are visible. Last year, in a tilt towards democracy, King Fahd established a consultative council, whose 60 members are appointed and have virtually no power, and made clear that was as far as he was prepared to go.

News is strictly controlled. Last September, 10,000 Islamic fundamentalists demonstrated in the central city of Buraidah to protest the arrest of Sheikh Salman Al Audeh, an outspoken cleric critical of the government, and as many as 1,000 people were jailed, according to dissident groups in exile.

Weeks later, the authorities admitted to holding 130 people.

The dissidents in exile, mainly in London, bombard the Western media and foreign governments with faxes — sometimes up to 800 a day — alleging widespread corruption among the royal family and large-scale arrests of Islamic activists.

This has become a problem for the Al Sauds. In October, the Wahhabi clerical establishment issued a fatwa, or religious edict, declaring the distribution of such reports illegal. But it has not noticeably curbed the dissidents' campaign.

In private conversations, more people criticise the lavish lifestyle of the king and his extended family. There are some 5,000 princes and princesses, but only 2,000 or so hold any real power.

King Fahd, whose personal wealth has been estimated at \$12 billion, has a dozen palaces in Saudi Arabia and Europe, a \$60 million yacht protected by stinger anti-aircraft missiles, and a private Boeing 747 jetliner.

The monarch, who has ruled as king and prime minister since 1982, is now 73 and reportedly in poor health. His brothers, the sons of the state's founder, King Abdul Aziz, are also aging and members of the second generation of Saudi princes are jockeying for the succession.

That has deepened splits within the royal family, with factions vying for share of the country's vast mineral wealth.

## LETTERS

### Sweden's right decision

To the Editor:

THE DECISION not to have the embassy of Sweden in Amman closed was most anticipated. Regardless of whether the reasons behind taking such a decision are political or apolitical, this decision can be best comprehended in light of what one of the most prominent members of the present Swedish government, Pieri Schori, said when he underlined the main features of the Swedish foreign policy in 1992 in his capacity as MP and spokesman for the Swedish Social Democratic Party on international issues. Mr. Schori said that "over the years, Sweden has had a very clear international identity. I see that identity as an asset. It must not be wasted now that we want to contribute to a peace order in the world."

Today, Sweden, with its clear vision, and pragmatic actions fuelled by a burning global commitment to justice, democracy and solidarity, cannot but reactivate its economic and political ties with a country like Jordan, which courageously embracing both democracy and peace.

Madeline M. Mentzagopoulou  
Amman.

## When

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By Ian Atalla  
Special to the  
Jordan Times

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Ministry counts echo the words of Ms. Khatib, who is director of student affairs there. Khalil Hindi, director of statistics at the ministry, notes that the number of Jordanians who travel abroad to obtain university degrees has declined significantly over the last decade. During the 1983-1984 academic year, 45,000 chose to do so. But a full decade later, and after the number of public and private universities in Jordan has more than quadrupled, Mr. Hindi estimates that a full third of Jordan's university students, or roughly 31,000 of them, were nonetheless, enrolled in colleges outside Jordan.

By Frank Baker  
The Associated Press

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# Weekender

Feb. 23, 1995

Published Every Thursday

## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### When they have problems, journalists know where to go

AT a press meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and members of the foreign press corps posted in Jordan, it was inevitable perhaps that after a frank and open discussion took place the focus would turn to problems representatives of these news agencies and organisations face in the technical side of conducting their work in the Kingdom. It did, and the most concern voiced by the journalists was over official handling of their business and the impact of this on Jordanian hopes for Amman to become an attractive centre for international reporters covering the Middle East. The King referred to a petition submitted only days earlier to Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem spelling out the foreign correspondents' grievances. In the petition, signed by 12 correspondents, the latter cited two recent incidents which they evaluated as serious examples of encumbrances to their work. First was the visit of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Amman in the third week of January. Journalists were contacted a day earlier and told that a VIP, presumably an Arab head of state, was coming to Amman. Try telling the main office that they should be prepared at "some time" to get a report and footage on the arrival of an "unknown guest" to Amman, said one foreign correspondent, and you could imagine the kind of reaction you would get from your boss at home. Then there was the call to Hashemiyeh Palace where members of a visiting team from the Israeli Knesset were to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Again the press was kept waiting from 5:30 p.m. (when many of them and their crews would be breaking their daily Ramadan fast) only to be told throughout their wait that no one could tell them who they would be seeing and in what format. Hours later, tired and weary and still uncertain of an appointment, the journalists decided against waiting. Such incidents are an imposition, say the journalists, and take valuable time away from their other commitments in and out of their offices. Genuinely concerned, His Majesty went beyond the petition, asking the press in attendance at the meeting to be entirely candid in expressing their views. When they did, King Hussein, ever-gracious, apologised for the state of affairs and called for quick action from all concerned authorities to rectify the situation. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who was present at the meeting, announced that an official spokesperson would be appointed very soon to deal with the press. At that, the foreign media, pleased with the announcement, expressed their concern that the individual chosen should be one who would not only be able to articulate information and positions but would actually be properly supplied with information. Tipped to be the spokesperson in question is Ministry of Information Secretary General Navef Ma'ula, formerly number-two person at the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, who went on to become ambassador to both Indonesia and Brazil.

The second major grievance involved the technical obstacles to accomplishing the correspondents' tasks in the Kingdom. The journalists listed exorbitant communication rates, deteriorating telephone connections, restrictive customs regulations hindering efforts to upgrade their operations, as well as other technical frustrations. Following the meeting, some of the foreign media say, they have noticed some

movement between the Prime Ministry, the ministries of Information and Communication and the Royal Court. At a meeting at the Prime Ministry last Sunday with Sharif Zeid, two deputy prime ministers and ministers of state for Prime Ministry affairs as well as the ministers of finance and post and communications, His Majesty stressed the need for extending facilities to the local and foreign media to have access to modern means of communications and telecommunications so that the Kingdom will be rightly considered as a distinguished centre for world media. The foreign press say they are hopeful that action promised will be realised.

**AN OLD-HAND AT A NEW JOB:** Visiting Jordan for four days, the new head of the British Foreign Office Middle East Department, Peter Ford, made a swift tour, met with officials in formal settings as well as at a dinner hosted by Ambassador Hinch-Cliff, at whose residence Ford was also a house guest. Guests at the dinner included Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Michel Mario and his wife Lucy, Senator and former foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber and his wife Lorretta, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan and his wife Virginia, Reuters Amman Bureau Chief Jack Redden and his wife Cathy, BBC Jordan correspondent Lyse Dusette, and the European Union envoy Yves Gazzo and his wife Nikola. While he was here, Ford, who was deputy chief of mission in Singapore, met up with Dame Elizabeth Anson, independent monitor, who was here to examine visa refusals for the British Foreign Office. The two visited Petra and Ajloun together. Unfortunately there was not enough time for Ford to accept a dinner by Jordanian parliamentarians whom he himself had hosted when their delegation was in London. But the chance to reciprocate will surely present itself as Ford, who is an old-hand in the Middle East, with previous postings in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, has only been on the job at the F.O. for three months. Besides, his new position should give him the opportunity to travel to Jordan more frequently. This quick junket to Jordan was his first in nearly 20 years.

**TAKING UP FAMILIAR REIGNS:** Former minister for social welfare and former parliament deputy Awni Bashir this week took over as executive director of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). A graduate of Cairo University, Dr. Bashir, a surgeon, talked to the J.T. between surgeries at the Jordan Centre for Family Medicine, about his vision for the QAF. Dr. Bashir said the fund was "unique in its ability to mobilise human and material resources and to use them in a most effective way to improve the equality of life for a large number of people in Jordan." According to Dr. Bashir, who served as minister during the mandate of former Prime Minister Taher Masri, the fund is a truly grass-root organisation that promotes independence, personal initiative, self help and communal life and cuts across gender, sectorial and geographic biases in

existing social structures and orthodox developmental activities. He said it was an honour for him to be called upon "to join in the sincere efforts of QAF towards the development and the welfare of the Jordanian society." Dr. Bashir is the son of the late Mohammad Bashir who had served as health minister in the seventies and died in the tragic accident that took the life of Queen Alia in 1977. Al Bashir Hospital in Ashrafieh bears his namesake in his memory. The young and well-liked new QAF chief hails from Salt where in 1993 his bid for reelection to Parliament did not succeed, largely as a result of the one-man, one-vote formula that was introduced to the electoral system earlier on. His is an energetic lineage which should prove him to be an experienced and dedicated asset to all he endeavours to accomplish, his friends say.



Dr. Hani Mulki

**JORDAN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT:** Development of another sort took place last week when at a meeting in New Delhi, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President, Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and co-chairman of the follow-up committee for the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty Hani Mulki was elected president of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations (WAITRO). The Copenhagen-based WAITRO was created in 1970 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to act as liaison for the exchange of ideas, information and experience, and for cooperation, coordination and mutual support among its membership of various research and development institutes, and private, semi-governmental and governmental organisations from more than 70 coun-

tries. Dr. Mulki, who has headed the RSS since 1989, represents the second Arab country to hold the WAITRO presidency. Egypt was first in the 70s. According to Dr. Mulki, "it was the good work of our institutes that got me elected, and with this presidency comes the opportunity to promote Jordan's ideas and contributions in the areas of science and technology." The young Dr. Mulki received his Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute founded in 1824 in Troy, New York. Married with two children, Dr. Mulki's new hat will take him from Amman to Copenhagen once every two months to ensure that WAITRO's programme of international and regional cooperation is succeeding and related funding allocations fall within the designated science and technology mandate.

**STANDING ROOM ONLY:** As Iran's National Day fell with the onset of Ramadan, Tehran's envoy to Jordan Ahmad Dastmaljian hosted a post-war reception at the Marriott Hotel attended by a considerably larger than usual crowd including British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliff, Canadian Ambassador Andrew Robinson, Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail Al Wais, and South African Charge d'Affaires A.B. Greenham. Guests commenting on the turn-out mused whether relations had moved up the temperature scale and that further understandings were being actualised. Then also it was the beginning of Ramadan which brings many a people together, some said.

**LOOK WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN:** With the announcements in the areas of social and technology development, the J.T. this week recorded its own communications first when it received a piece of



#### Signed, sealed and delivered

correspondence transmitted via what many consider an outdated method: Good old-fashioned regular post. The novelty here is that the mail received bore state of Israel postage stamps and Israeli and Jordanian postal office cancellation imprints. From the markings we were unable to deduce whether the posted item was sent airmail and thus had to arrive in Jordan via Cyprus, or whether indeed it was delivered by ground transportation across the newly-opened borders. Meanwhile philatelists at the J.T. are heatedly bidding for the coveted stamps, if only for their historic worth.

Jennifer Hamarnah

## Jordanians get diplomas 'from all over the world'

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the  
Jordan Times

**AMMAN —** When Jordanian graduates come to the Ministry of Higher Education, Maysun Khatib sees diplomas "from all over the world, from east to west."

Ministry counts echo the words of Ms. Khatib, who is director of student affairs there. Khalil Hindi, director of statistics at the ministry, notes that the number of Jordanians who travel abroad to obtain university degrees has declined significantly over the last decade. During the 1983-1984 academic year, 45,000 chose to do so. But a full decade later, and after the number of public and private universities in Jordan has more than quadrupled, Mr. Hindi estimates that a full third of Jordan's university students, or roughly 31,000 of them, were nonetheless, enrolled in colleges outside Jordan

for the academic year 1993-94.

The list of countries these students choose is myriad — everywhere from the United States, long a traditional staple for college-age students in the Kingdom, to Romania, Russia, Pakistan, the Philippines and more. Even China has not escaped the list.

Jordanian students continue to go abroad for multiple reasons, according to Mr. Hindi. There are some, he noted, who are students from wealthy families who can afford the higher costs of universities in the West, and choose them for their educational values, while others are simply curious about foreign lands and cultures.

Tariq Ayyoub, now a correspondent at the Associated Press in Amman, had another reason — tight finances. Even though he had an admission from Yarmouk University in hand, "I simply

couldn't afford to pay the costs of university life in Jordan." So he went to study at Calicut University in southern India. "A student here has to pay perhaps JD400 a month to get by, with class fees and everything," Mr. Ayyoub said. "In India, I was able to do it on JD70 a month."

There is another phenomenon in all of this, however, which causes worry among many education experts in Jordan. Although no exact statistics exist to gauge the trend, experts say that a significant number of students go abroad because they have failed to achieve the minimum Tawjihi score of 60 set by the government for admission to any four-year universities in Jordan. These students are then willing to travel abroad to find practically any university in any country with standards loose enough to accept them.

Not only do a number of the countries — which

these students often end up in, such as Russia, the Philippines and India — have higher educational systems with many question marks about their calibre of teaching, said Ms. Khatib, "we also find forged certificates from these countries, or diplomas which have been sold to the student without any time actually spent in the classroom."

Foremost among these countries is Russia. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ms. Khatib said, universities there have fallen well outside any centralised monitoring system of their programmes, and academics and ethics within them have fallen to a shadowy level. Nonetheless, 3,376 Jordanian students had chosen to enroll there during the last academic year, 544 of whom were specialising in medicine. And in the last few years, Russian universities have become a "big seller" at commercial admissions offices in Jordan, which basically sell students

admissions to foreign universities, Ms. Khatib said.

India, with 2,029 Jordanian students enrolled during 1993-94, is another such question mark, according to educational experts. "Many of our students who go to India never even attend school there," said one university administrator here who preferred anonymity. "But somehow, they manage to come up with a diploma anyway."

Mr. Ayyoub asserted that he personally had received a sound education in India. However, he otherwise concurred with the general opinion of the experts. "India does have quite a number of excellent universities," he said. "But at many of them, especially in the north, you can buy anything you want, whether it is the answer sheet to an exam or the graduation diploma itself. Corruption is rampant among their staff and teachers."

Meanwhile, administrators at private universities

inside Jordan have repeatedly called on the Council of Higher Education to lower the minimum Tawjihi score necessary for their admission of students from 60 to 55. (The minimum Tawjihi score for government universities is 65). They maintain that this would curb the outflow of students who have failed to score 60 on the exam to foreign universities of doubtful stature, and allow them to study inside Jordan instead, where the private universities have ample seats for them.

"I'm sure that a high percentage of our students who go outside would prefer to stay here if they had the chance," said Dr. Amin Mahmoud, president of Zeytoonah University, although he did not give unqualified support for lowering the 60 mark. "I'm not against students going outside, but they should be doing it at a certain level — not at an early age right out of high school."

Ms. Khatib said that if the council decided to lower the 60 mark for the private universities, she would be for it. "I prefer this, and prefer to see less students going abroad."

But another educational expert felt that lowering the 60s mark could prove to be a double-edged sword. "If they do go below 60, they will compromise the quality of higher education in Jordan," said Janine Tal, director of AMIDEAST in Amman, a private agency which counsels students about studying in the United States. A Tawjihi score below 60 is a strong indicator that the student probably does not have the ability to pursue university studies, she said, and "you simply must not do justice to the college or the student by taking him in, and then having him fail out."

As for the council's stand on the matter, "every year their is a heated debate among its members on whether to lower

the 60s mark or not," said Dr. Ahmad Husban, secretary-general of the Ministry of Higher Education. However, he said, the issue was not likely to be reviewed again by the council until the beginning of the 1995-96 academic year.

A university administrator who declined to be named saw the issue in a different light. "I believe Jordan simply has too many university students, period," he said. Due to longstanding traditions and pressures in Jordanian society, he said, "every parent in Jordan insists that his children have to have a university education." Thus, he explained, too many refuse the idea of sending them to vocational schools, where they may actually be able to acquire training more suitable to their aptitudes, and more certain to guarantee them a stable future in the tight local job market, which is already top-heavy with overqualified employment-seekers.

## Monopoly celebrates 60th birthday

By Frank Baker  
The Associated Press

**PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island —** Monopoly, the board game that rewards players for sending their competition into bankruptcy, is turning 60.

Since it was introduced by Parker Brothers in February 1935 during the depths of the depression, more than 160 million

copies have been purchased. It is sold in 45 countries and printed in 25 languages, including Icelandic, Arabic, Croatian and Russian.

To mark the birthday, "Rich Uncle Pennybags," the character on millions of Monopoly boxes, rang the opening bell at the American Stock Exchange in New York. Parker Brothers is a subsidiary of

Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based Hasbro Inc., whose shares are traded on the exchange.

Edward Parker, former president of Parker Brothers, once said the appeal of Monopoly is "clobbering your best friend without doing any damage."

"When you come to the table, everyone comes equal. Everyone starts

with the same amount of money," said Bob Wann, senior vice president of marketing for Hasbro Games Group. "The game plays simply enough that an 8-year-old can play, but it's still challenging enough for an adult."

"There's also a balance between skill and luck," Wann said. "Monopoly calls for up to eight players to use dice

to move game pieces — which include a horse, dog, lantern, iron and wheelbarrow — clockwise around a square board. There are properties, railroads and utilities that may be purchased when landed upon.

Players may "build" hotels and houses on their properties and charge "rent" to players who land on them.

Everyone starts with \$1,500 and collects \$200 each time they complete one trip around the board, but may be sent to jail, fined or awarded money after landing on certain squares. Players drop out as they become bankrupt.

Versions sold in other countries are altered to appeal to those citizens, Wann said. For instance, Boardwalk becomes

Mayfair in England, Rue de la Paix in France and Schlossallee in Germany. Currencies also vary from country to country.

Monopoly was invented by Charles Darrow in 1933. The first board was actually an oil cloth on his kitchen table and was comprised of properties named after streets in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Darrow eventually sold

the rights to Parker Brothers, which started producing the game in 1935. The company couldn't say how much it paid for the rights and isn't sure how much money it has made off the game.

It acknowledges, however, the profit margin is something Uncle Pennybags would be proud of.

## Removable storage

By Jean-Claude Elias

Sophisticated PC software and the huge size of the data they generate have made large capacity hard disks an essential component of any computer, whether used at home or in the office. While delighted to own and operate giant disks, users have found that the bigger the capacity of the disk, the greater their need for a security back up. Making additional copies (called back up) of one's work has become vital. No one can afford to lose, in a split second, days, weeks or months of work just because of a machine failure, an electrical problem or simply an operator's mistake. The only guarantee against such accidents is making sure of having extra copies of the hard disk contents.

As it has recently been mentioned in this column, in less than ten years the average PC fixed, internal hard disk has grown from a ridiculous 10MB (ten million bytes or characters) to 300MB while the physical size was at the same time reduced by almost 70 per cent. The cost per MB was JD40 in 1986. It is now JD0.7 or 700 fils.

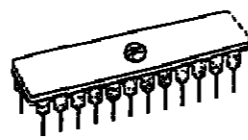
In order to back up large amounts of software and data, one does not only need fast and cost effective hardware, practical and "open" solutions are important as well. Removability and expandability are the keys elements in such a case. Therefore adding hard disks like the ones that are fixed inside the PC casing, is not the ideal answer.

Regular floppy disks are too slow at copying and anyway cannot store more than 1.4MB each. The floptical media launched two years ago was supposed to become a standard. Floptical disks could hold 21MB of data, are small - 3.5" - and reasonably priced. Moreover the drive unit required to operate them could also process regular floppy disks. For an unknown reason, floptical disks never really made it. They seem to have disappeared from the market.

The two well established standards in removable storage solutions are the magnetic tape and the removable hard disk cartridge. There are naturally other removable devices like the Bernoulli, the Worm and the Writable-Erasable CD-ROM optical disks for instance, however their cost doesn't make them available to the mere mortal.

Both the tape and the disk cartridge use special drives that can either be installed permanently in the PC cabinet or be placed externally next to it, connected only by a data cable. Once the drive is installed, one can buy as many tapes or cartridges as needed. The important, common feature is removability. One can take the tape (or disk) out of its drive,

## chip talk



put it safely in another place, insert another in the drive, and so forth. Complete software libraries can be built this way and several sets of back ups can be easily made. I know of many users who will not go to sleep before making a daily data back up of their work.

Tapes are available, typically in 120, 250 and 500MB formats. Hard disk cartridges exist in 44, 88, 120 and 270MB-formats. The price per MB is about 100 fils for the tape and 200 fils for the disk. The latter however performs by far better although the initial cost of the disk drive is higher than the tape drive - almost double.

Removable hard disk cartridges are as fast as internal, fixed hard disks, that is about 30 times faster than the tape. Also, streaming tapes cannot be used for processing but only for copying - hard disk cartridges can. The disk's reliability factor is better than the tape's and its error rate much lower. For a little difference in price, using a removable hard disk cartridge instead of a streamer tape makes perfect sense.

Another important aspect of the removable disk is its easy operation. Once installed, you can treat it like a regular hard disk and use on it all the DOS or Windows commands you are familiar with and that you would use with the main, internal hard disk "C:". If you do not have an internal hard disk at all, you can even make the removable cartridge "bootable", that is install MS-DOS operating system on it and work it as your main hard disk.

Size wise, both formats are very small and extremely convenient to store in a drawer, a filing cabinet or even in your pocket. The streaming tape is slightly larger than a standard audio cassette and the hard disk cartridge is only 3.5" wide, just like a small floppy disk, but a little thicker.

With the spiraling increase in data storage needs, it is expected that a streamer tape or a removable hard disk cartridge will soon become a standard equipment of personal computers.

## Are you still waiting for the punchline?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Ancient Greek theories in philosophy have taught us that the highest degrees of reality are those which we think with our reason and perceive with our senses. Bear with me for a second, if you would, while I try to hammer out an introduction to what I am about to delve into here.

Aristotle, that meticulous organizer and the last of the great Greek philosophers, held that all our thoughts and ideas have come into our consciousness through what we have heard and seen. We have an innate power of reason, but have no innate ideas. Yet, we do have the innate faculty of organizing all sensory impressions into categories and classes. This is how concepts such as "stone," "animal," "human," "selfish," "arrogant," "racist," and "idiot" arise.

Unlike animals, we are able to plan our lives. We have the ability to make a "pleasure calculation." Spending money we have saved on a new car is good, but a trip to England is better. But "pleasure" does not necessarily mean sensual pleasure - like buying a car for instance. Values such as friendship also count. Or so I naively thought.

This is where we get into the messy business at hand. Do the words 'Mackintosh Quality Street' ring a bell? It could be a famous brand of chocolate. It could also be, if spelt without the 'K' the name of a brand of computers. But also, Makintosh, without the 'C', is the name of a monument to archi-texture, in a place where glass grows.

The other half of this charade is Bart, not that notorious Simpson family member, nor that famous hospital in London, but Bart Late, a soul mate from London.

You must be by now wondering what do Makintosh (the monument) and Bart Late have to do with archi-texture? Well, this is a story about architects who were students with Bart Late, and mutants-turned-experts after a brief encounter with Makintosh.

Over the years I have come to appreciate that great taste of Mackintosh's chocolates, but lately I have discovered that Makintosh's mutants-turned-experts

(henceforth referred to as creatures) leave a sour aftertaste in one's mouth. They tend to be quite spiteful for some anonymous reason. For example, they have developed the nasty habit of writing anonymous letters to the people you work for just to get you into trouble. There is a word for people like this, and that is sadists. They also crave for the spotlight, but being the kind of slimy creatures they are, they weave their spiteful plots under the cover of darkness.

But what do we do with creatures like these? Do we let them get away with hurting other people? Or do we nip them in the bud?

Personally, I would go for the latter. These creatures should never be allowed to find themselves in the position where they can cause pain to others. But, you see, it is not the position itself which is at fault here, it is in fact abusing that position.

This is this week's revelation about our society and the people we work with. You could say you already knew that. But because I had to write this piece using aliases, hence all the other stuff which I hope was not uninteresting in its own way.

Now comes the crunch, do you let these meddlers be, or do you hit back, hard, real hard? That is the question. The answer is whatever heals your wounds quicker. But the enjoyment of life required the old Greek ideals of self-control, temperance, and serenity. We were taught that desire must be curbed, and that serenity would help us to endure pain.

But our world has grown old, violent and satirical, hasn't it?

So, when "the path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men, blessed is he who in the name of charity and goodwill shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to destroy and poison my brothers, and you will know my name is the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon thee!" (Ezekiel 25:17, as adapted by Quentin Tarantino in the movie Pulp Fiction).

All characters and names in this essay are fictional. Not.

## Soph

Bertrand Tavernier film, an imaginary The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas, Sophie Marceau's daughter in Sophie Marceau's film, give the full measure of her talents as an actress and full of life.

By Anne Rapin

Sophie Marceau was a natural for the part of the fearless daughter of one of France's most popular mythical heroes.

The French actress has come to represent France abroad as well as in her compatriots' minds. She has been dreaming of a role like this one - of which there are too few in French popular fiction -



On stage in G.B. Shaw's

## At 'H Vaness

By Hillel Italie  
The Associated Press  
NEW YORK — In the often transitory world of theatre, stars try to make dressing rooms feel like home.

Yul Brynner had his room decorated in shades of brown when he starred years ago in The King And I. For her more recent run in Death And The Maiden, Glenn Close installed a couch with floral prints, and enjoyed serving tea.

But Home is a more serious affair for Vanessa Redgrave, who for the past few months has starred off-Broadway in the acclaimed production of Vita And Virginia.

You will find no renovations in this long, narrow dressing room at Manhattan's Union Square Theatre. The walls and counter tops are a shiny, anonymous white. Instead of sofas, there are metal chairs. Instead of freshly brewed tea, there's take-out cappuccino in a paper cup.

While the actress has set up an array of family pictures and letters of support, her touch is most visible here in the books that fill a narrow white shelf above her mirror: Chekhov and Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare and Ariel Dorfman, a volume of writings by Karl Marx.

Interviewing Redgrave requires more work than interviews with other performers: Brush up on the classics and economic theory. Read Stanislawsky's An Actor Prepares and anything you can find on the war in Bosnia. "You see all the interconnections between the fields of culture, education, social conditions and political conditions," Redgrave said as she thumbed through a notebook of

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I have missed you. Lakd iftakad'toka.
- It's up to you. Al-amr matrookon lak.
- Take it easy. Haw'wen alaik.
- Have heart. Kon rahiman.
- That's fine. Haza shay jamil.
- I don't mind at all. La omani' italkan.
- It's nothing to do with us. Laysal-amr yanina be-shay.
- Please yourself. If'al ma tasha.
- Far be it from you. Hasha lil-lah.
- They're in a fix. Innahom fee warta.
- Let bygones be bygones. Afal-lah amma salaf.
- Charity begins at home. Al-aqraboon awla bel-ma'roof.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### JOKES

- ★ A little boy went into the confessional and said to the priest, "Father, I threw peanuts into the river." The priest couldn't see much harm in that, so he gave the lad a light penance. Another boy entered the box and said, "Father, I threw peanuts into the river. The priest was again puzzled, but not wishing to show his confusion sent the second boy away with a light penance. But in came another youngster - he'd thrown peanuts into the river as well - and the next boy, and the next! Then a very tiny little mite came in, and the priest said, "And I suppose you threw peanuts into the river."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ COUNCIL (to medical witness): "And even doctors, I suppose, makes mistakes sometimes."
- MEDICAL WITNESS: "Yes, just as lawyers do."
- COUNCIL: "But the mistakes doctors make are often buried beneath the ground."
- MEDICAL WITNESS: "And lawyers' mistakes swing in the air."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ Philip, asked the chemistry teacher, "What is HNO<sub>3</sub>?"
- "Oh, er.....just a minute, Miss.....it's on the tip of my tongue, Miss...."
- "Well, in that case, spit it out. It's a nitric acid!!!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Concorde, the world's fastest airliner is manufactured by two companies. Name them.
2. The planet Uranus was discovered on March, 13, 1781. By whom?
3. Whom did the author George Bernard Shaw describe as the "most beautiful human being I have ever seen"?
4. Whom said "women hold up half the sky"?

5. What is a concertato? A bottle?
6. What is ethnocentrism?
7. What is the scale measuring the force of winds at sea called?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### COOKING IS FUN

#### WHITE BEAN DELIGHT

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- ½ green pepper finely chopped.
- 1 small onion, finely chopped.
- 1 stick celery, diced
- 175g tomatoes, skinned
- 115g cooked white beans
- 1 large potato, peeled and diced
- 1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- ½ cup vegetable stock or water
- salt and pepper

**METHOD:** Heat the oil in a pan, then add the pepper, onion and celery and saute until the onion begins to brown. Add the tomatoes plus the potato, stock, parsley salt and pepper. Simmer for about 30 minutes or until the liquid is reduced by half. Add the beans and heat through gently for 5-10 minutes. Garlic bread goes well with this dish.

To make a more substantial main course dish, follow the recipe to the end, place in a casserole dish and top with a crumble mixture and bake in a hot oven for 25 minutes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

#### ROUND THE GLOBE

All the words below will be found in the illustration. Some read up, down, sideways, and even backwards. How many can you find?

AUSTRALIA  
BELGIUM  
BRAZIL  
CANADA  
CHINA  
DENMARK  
EGYPT  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
INDIA

IRAN  
ISRAEL  
ITALY  
JAPAN  
NORWAY  
PANAMA  
PERU  
PORTUGAL  
SWEDEN  
TURKEY

C P E R U M  
Y A W R O N A L  
D E N M A R K U Y B  
I N K A L E A R S I E C  
R A R D E G Y P T N L H  
A L U A I D N I R T G I  
N N T P A N A M A I I N  
L I Z A R B V T L T U A  
R F R A N C E M I A M O  
E P O R T U G A L K  
I S W E D E N Y  
L J A P A N

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, Feb. 23

7:30 N.B.A

8:30 Road To Avonlea

9:10 The Hat Squad

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Separation

Starring: Rosanna Arquette & David Suchet

The film tells the story of a crippled New York actress and an agoraphobic writer living in London who become strong friends over the trans-Atlantic telephone while discussing the production of a play.

12:00 Bangkok Hilton

Friday, Feb. 24

7:30 Documentary — Science World

8:10 African Skies

Freedom Ranch is quarantined after the sudden, mysterious death of one of the guests, Mr. Reel.

8:45 Desmond's

9:15 Grand Slam

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

12:00 Feature Film — Proud Men

Routine father-and-son conflicts are given conviction by a strong cast led by Charlton Heston and Peter Strauss in this made-for-cable western.

Saturday, Feb. 25

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 You Bet Your Life

8:10 Movies, Games And Videos

9:15 The Cape Rebel

Before he begins his search for the legendary Hercules Fiek, Sloot, however, must first clear with the name of James Kerwin, his former captor at Deadwood Camp who has been court-martialled by the British war office.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Another Pair Of Aces: Three Of Kind

Starring: Willie Nelson & Kris Kristofferson

Captain Jack Parsons, a gruff Texas ranger is accused of killing a recently released convict and a sheriff's deputy in an ensuing shoot-out. Now, he is the object of a deadly manhunt.

12:00 Stay The Night

### Sunday, Feb. 26

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

8:00 Erebus: The Aftermath

9:00 Step By Step

9:30 Heartbeat

Presented by Maha Addassi

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Top Secret

Monday, Feb. 27

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 Magazine Zero One

8:00 Alf

8:30 Street Hawk

9:15 By The Way Of Stars

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bombardier

Joseph becomes a millionaire as he continues to invent and improve new machines.

12:00 Feature Film — Brewster's Millions

Tuesday, Feb. 28

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

7:50 Home Improvement

8:15 Road To Avonlea

12:00 Feature Film — Blind Witness

Starring: Victoria Principal & Paul Le Mat

A blind lady becomes the only witness of her husband's death after he got killed by two armed burglars.

Wednesday, March 1

7:30 Documentary — Ramadan In The World

7:45 Health Documentary — Get To Know Your Body

8:00 Charlie Chaplin

8:30 Law And Order

9:30 The Dwelling Place

9:10 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Watergate

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

## Sophie Marceau — woman of the day

**Bertrand Tavernier's latest film, an imaginary sequel to The Three Musketeers' adventures by Alexander Dumas, "Le Fille De D'Artagnan" (D'Artagnan's Daughter) was made for Sophie Marceau. In it, she can give the full measure of her talents as an actress and appear at once popular, generous and full of life. Portrait of an actress in top shape.**

By Anne Rapin

Sophie Marceau was a natural for the part of the fearless daughter of one of France's most popular mythical heroes.

The French actress has come to represent France abroad as well as in her compatriots' minds. She has been dreaming of a role like this one — of which there are too few in French popular fiction —

and she makes a convincing and touching daughter of d'Artagnan.

For the movie, she had to learn how to ride a horse, fight with a sword and insisted on doing her own stunts, no matter how dangerous. Just as Jean Marais or Gérard Philipe in the past, Sophie Marceau's swashbuckling enthusiasm is catching.

The plot: In order to avenge her adoptive

Amazingly similar

Spirited, daring and avid for justice, with a lust for life, Eloise, the movie's character, looks in more ways than one just like Sophie Marceau. Sophie became a star when she was 13 and her fame reached all of Europe and even Japan with the movie *La Boum* (1980). But after *La Boum II* (1982) she did not hesitate to put a stop to the series, that could have gone on indefinitely, creating an inescapable image of a very serious child from a bourgeois family, which had nothing to do with reality. In real life she comes from a modest, suburban home.

She chose to take risks very early in her career, doing *L'Amour Braque* (1984) under the direction of Andrzej Zulawski, renowned for his destructive attitude towards actors. In Maurice Pialat's film she plays a prostitute opposite Gérard Depardieu. In *Police* (1985) or in *Descente Aux Enfers* (1986) by Francis Girod, she plays the part of an ambiguous young woman whose sole preoccupation is to make life hell for her husband, played by Claude Brasseur.

She can give free rein to her idealistic and frustrated feelings in Philippe de Broca's epic *Les*



Sophie Marceau is prepared for the role

*Chouans* (1987) and two more Zulawski movies: *Mes Nuits Sont Plus Belles Que Vos Jours* (1988) with Jacques Dutronc and *La Note Bleue* (1990) in which her portrayal of George Sand's daughter, crushed by her mother's strong personality and jealous of her successes, was hailed by the critics.

But from time to time, her image as just another accessible girl next door, has led her to play parts that, as was the case of *L'Etudiante* (1988) or *Pacific Palisades* (1989), were too superficial and certainly did not contribute much to her career.

This may be the reason why she has turned to the stage for parts that would demand the best of her. While sometimes shun-

ning her, the critics hailed her first theatre part in Anouilh's *Eurydice* for which she received the Molière Award for new talents in 1991. She was again successful in 1993, with G.B. Shaw's *Pygmalion*, with Lambert Wilson.

Very professional and constantly smiling, she granted dozens of interviews before the August premiere of *Le Fille De D'Artagnan*, in which she appeared as a 27-year-old woman, at the top of her form and finally ready to be herself. For the past year or two, she has been giving her own opinion, sometimes annoyingly so, on a variety of subjects having nothing to do with her profession, such as politics.

Her newly found serenity stems from the fact that she has decided on what she wanted to do in life: be in the movies. She came to the movies almost by accident, for pocket money, her real ambition being to acquire culture and know "the right words to say things."

Self-educated, Sophie Marceau has grown through her reading and meeting with people who gave her the keys to good literature, art in general and painting, of which she is now an adept.

This personal quest for culture is illustrated by a strong desire to learn, an unquenchable curiosity, a taste for work and the need to find an artistic exhortation, the movies being just one revealing "work



Sophie Marceau takes a break during the shooting of 'Le Fille De D'Artagnan'

on oneself." At once instinctive and introspective, she constantly asks questions during the shooting, like the reasons behind such or such a scene or the character's psychology.

Clear-minded, Sophie Marceau is fully conscious of the frailty of success. Last August, she told the

magazine *Première*: "Nothing is permanent... Just work and willpower." Demanding, sincere, with a will to building a sensible career, Sophie Marceau had long been searching for herself and may have succeeded in *Le Fille De D'Artagnan*. At least that is the impression one is left after seeing the movie — *Label France*.



Bertrand Tavernier and his star

## At 'Home' with Vanessa Redgrave

By Hillel Italie

**NEW YORK** — In the often transitory world of theatre, stars try to make dressing rooms feel like home.

Yul Brynner had his room decorated in shades of brown when he starred years ago in *The King And I*. For her more recent run in *Death And The Maiden*, Glenn Close installed a couch with floral prints, and enjoyed serving tea.

But Home is a more serious affair for Vanessa Redgrave, who for the past few months has starred off-Broadway in the acclaimed production of *Vita And Virginia*.

You will find no renovations in this long, narrow dressing room at Manhattan's Union Square Theatre. The walls and counter tops are a shiny, anonymous white. Instead of sofas, there are metal chairs. Instead of freshly brewed tea, there's take-out cappuccino in a paper cup.

While the actress has set up an array of family pictures and letters of support, her touch is most visible here in the books that fill a narrow white shelf above her mirror: Chekhov and Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare and Ariel Dorfman, a volume of writings by Karl Marx.

Interviewing Redgrave requires more work than interviews with other performers: Brush up on the classics and economic theory. Read Stanislawsky's *An Actor Prepares* and anything you can find on the war in Bosnia.

"You see all the interconnections between the fields of culture, education, social conditions and political conditions," Redgrave said as she thumbed through a notebook of

materials about a benefit she was helping to organize for the children of Sarajevo.

On a chilly winter's afternoon, the 58-year-old Redgrave is dressed in black pants and a black, chenille sweater-blouse. She is tall and slender, swaying gracefully as she stands and waits to be photographed and easily folding into a small chair as she begins talking.

With showtime still hours away, the actress wears no makeup. Her ruddy skin is marked by wrinkles and tiny red veins. Her voice is deep and dramatic, resonant of both the stage and nicotine. Her eyes are a bright, youthful blue, although, at times, they seem more focused on what she says than on the reporter to whom she's speaking.

The great mystery about Redgrave today is where she will go with a question. A discussion about personal regrets reminds her of the 1938 Munich pact with the Nazis. The subject of marital problems with her first husband, the late director Tony Richardson, is resolved with an explanation of method acting.

"It gives you an understanding of building and creating," said Redgrave, whose marriage to Richardson collapsed in the mid-1960s after his affair with actress Jeanne Moreau.

"It's quite natural to be infatuated if you admire someone's work. ... Any man who didn't love Jeanne Moreau would have to be blind and deaf. How could one think, 'my husband mustn't.' It would be ridiculous. I, of the same feminine gender, have the same admiration and awe

and respect."

Perhaps the most famous member of one of England's great acting dynasties, Redgrave currently is supporting a number of family traditions.

One, of course, is the stage. Another is politics. (Her father, the late Sir Michael Redgrave, was involved with left-wing causes during the 1930s and '40s).

Still another is memoirs. Her parents both wrote them. So did sister Lynn Redgrave, who concluded her book with recipes for everything from soda bread to "Lynn's Lemon Syllabub."

But the recently published Vanessa Redgrave: *An Autobiography* is rarely so chippy. You won't find instructions for pasta or "Vanessa's Vinaigrette." But you will find copies of a letter protesting travel restrictions on Mikhail Gorbachev and a paid advertisement concerning her opposition to the Gulf war.

Redgrave's autobiography is short on gossip and personalities, which she said may go into another book. Instead, she writes extensively about natural childbirth, the method, the Workers' Revolutionary Party, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and Sarajevo.

For years, Redgrave wouldn't discuss politics with the media, saying she didn't think her remarks were being properly reported. That has changed because she believes the book provides a permanent record of her opinions.

Acting and "real life," she observes in her memoir, are not separate worlds.

"(My) awareness of all



Vanessa Redgrave

the life around me, political, personal, natural, or theatrical... (has) been doubly increased since becoming more aware and involved with the present political situation," she observed in a letter to her father in the early '60s.

The daring of Redgrave's politics matches that of her work on the stage and screen. Her causes have included striking miners in Britain, the Cuban Revolution, Palestinian statehood. Some never have forgiven her for her reference to "Zionist hoodlums" in her acceptance speech when she won an Academy Award for Julia.

"I wouldn't have been thinking about hoodlums in any case, which was the Jewish Defence League, if they hadn't been offering money for people to kill me, if there hadn't been sharpshooters around trying to stop such a thing from happening," said Redgrave, who won the Oscar in 1978.

"But if you look at the words I actually said, you can see I made a pledge. I pledged I would follow the example of Jews ('to fight against anti-Semitism and fascism'), both in my work and in politics."

"If you take what I have done, it adds up to what I have said I would try to do," she said. "Maybe it's not enough, maybe it's very small, but it does add up. I do believe if you make a pledge you must stay with that pledge to the end of your life."

## China film duo Zhang Yimou, Gong Li split

By Andrew Browne

**SHANGHAI** — The glamour couple of the Chinese film world — director Zhang Yimou and the actress Gong Li — have split up, ending a collaboration that produced a string of award-winning movies, including *Raise The Red Lantern* and *Red Sorghum*, news reports said.

Zhang and Gong were lovers, famous in China as much for their off-screen romance as for their controversial pictures that swept film prizes in the West.

Now Gong, the nearest thing China has to a Hollywood superstar, is romantically linked with the China-based manager of a foreign company and has walked out on Zhang, the *Wen Hui* newspaper said, without giving names.

"The love affair between China's cinematic golden couple is over," the *Wen Hui* reported. "Yes, we've split up," Zhang was quoted as saying in an interview with the *Xinmin Evening News*. "I respect her choice. From the bottom of my heart I hope she has a happy life and success in her work."

Neither Zhang nor Gong were available for comment.

The rift came to a head during the making of Zhang's latest film, set in Shanghai in the roaring 1930s, starring Gong in the role of a gangster's girl struggling through life as a nightclub jazz singer, the *Wen Hui* daily said.

Gong was often late on set, took days off and lacked conviction, it reported.

Based on interviews with Zhang and members of his inner circle, the

newspapers suggested the Shanghai film, now almost completed, would be his last with Gong.

That would be a major loss for the movie industry both in China and overseas, where Zhang and Gong are among only a handful of recognised Chinese movie celebrities. Their latest collaboration, *To Live*, garnered yet more prizes for the couple at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

The glamorous Gong often played tragic women in Zhang's movies, capturing the director's bitter-sweet feelings towards China — the emotion that energises his best work. She had the star-quality that guaranteed his movies commercial success.

Now both their futures appear uncertain.

Zhang's career is already threatened: Communist authorities have banned him from working with overseas film companies and accepting foreign financing. That was his punishment for showing *To Live* at Cannes without clearance from Chinese

censors. Although Gong is now working on a movie with another of China's celebrated "fifth generation" of film directors, Chen Kaige, many Chinese have speculated that without Zhang her talents will wither.

"She's not a hard-working sort, but she is quite instinctual, and often picks things up just like that," Zhang told the *Wen Hui* daily. "If she's prepared to work hard... she will be able to produce good work."

In a recent interview with Reuters in Shanghai, Zhang hinted at the break-up. "It can't go on forever," he said of his eight-year working relationship with Gong.

He talked of personal unhappiness, complaining he was lonely and his life had become dull. He said he was planning to build a house in Beijing where he and members of his crew could live and work together.

Zhang and Gong have rarely been out of the Chinese newspaper gossip columns since the brilliant

young director abandoned his wife for his leading lady. Zhang's wife created a sensation at the time with a kiss-and-tell story published in the national media.

They were an oddly-matched couple.

While Zhang was methodical and obsessive, Gong was mercurial. She enjoyed travel he liked to stay in China. Her sultry beauty drew the paparazzi he always seemed ill at ease in public.

Gong's city-girl sophistication contrasted with her partner's peasant ways. Zhang sports a crewcut and in winter bundles up in a green army greatcoat.

Nevertheless, the chemistry between them created some of the greatest Chinese films.

The *Wen Hui* reported that Zhang is devastated by the split. "It's been too cruel," it said.

"Everybody who knows Zhang Yimou says he's a tough guy. But if there's one person that gets to him, it's Gong Li," the paper said. "He'll survive, though."



Gong Li (centre) plays the lead in Zhang Yimou's Chinese epic, To Live

## Researchers near genetic tests for leukemia, breast and kidney cancer

By Paul Reccer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers probing the genetic mutations that make some people more susceptible than others to cancer have isolated specific gene flaws for leukemia and for breast and kidney cancer.

Studies published in the Journal of the American Medical Association report scientists have moved closer to being able to identify at a very early age patients with specific inherited genes that might lead to cancer.

The discoveries could lead to laboratory blood tests that would enable patients to be counseled

on their cancer liability and help clinicians make decisions about early treatment or about procedures that could prevent the disease, experts said at a news conference.

Among findings: Researchers at nine centres who are studying the DNA of the gene BRCA1, which increases susceptibility to breast and ovarian cancer, have found 57 mutations related to the disease.

Mark H. Skolnick of the University of Utah School of Medicine said that the BRCA1 gene may have as many as 200 mutations that lead to the cancers.

"The gene is very large, and these mutations are spread across the whole

gene," he said. "There is no clustering."

Of the 57 mutations, Dr. Skolnick said only three seem to be common.

The mutations were found in about 7 per cent of 1,086 breast and ovarian cancer patients tested at U.S. and British laboratories.

Dr. Skolnick said that once all mutations have been identified, perhaps in two years, researchers will determine which of these genetic flaws can lead to cancer and which are neutral.

Then, he said, researchers will be able to develop tests that identify patients with a high risk of breast or ovarian cancer. Dr. Skolnick said the

test would be useful only for those women who have close relatives — mothers or sisters — identified as having a BRCA1 mutation. Women who have such relatives but who do not inherit the BRCA1 mutation would have a breast or ovarian cancer risk no greater than the general population, he said.

Researchers studying the ALL1 gene, linked to development of certain kinds of leukemia, have found an unusual fusion of identical parts of the gene in some patients.

Dr. Steven A. Schichman of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia said that in some adult patients with acute leukemia, researchers found

that regions of the gene actually were duplicated, an abnormality he called "self-fusion."

Just how this happens or how it causes leukemia is unknown, but the researcher said the defect is present in patients with a particularly poor prognosis and high risks of relapse.

The fused defect occurs at some point in development of the bone marrow cell and causes it to grow without normal controls, he said.

By finding the defect, Schichman said, researchers now may be able to develop a test to identify patients bearing the genetic flaw, which could help to guide treatment.

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute have identified a gene that may lead to early diagnosis and treatment of an often lethal form of kidney cancer.

Dr. W. Marston Linehan said the NCI scientists have found the gene for Von Hippel-Lindau disease, or VHL, an inherited condition that leads to

kidney cancer. He said the VHL gene mutation was found in 85 of 114 families where kidney cancer was an inherited disorder.

It's hoped, he said, that a test can be developed to identify patients with VHL and, thus, lead to early diagnosis of kidney cancer.

## For two years, woman believed she carried AIDS virus

By Dan Sewell  
The Associated Press

WAYCROSS, Georgia — For two years, the AIDS virus ruled Vernelle Lowder's life, dominating her waking thoughts, haunting her restless dreams.

She was overwhelmed by fear, depression, anger and despair. She encountered prejudice worse than any racism she ever experienced, and panicked at the onset of the slightest cold.

As it turns out, she never had the virus.

Sitting formally on the sofa in her tidy living room, Ms. Lowder, now 50, haltingly described 24 months spent under what she thought was a death sentence.

In 1980, she had received a blood transfusion during surgery at a hospital in this south Georgia city. During a checkup for a thyroid problem a decade later at a clinic in Florida, her blood was tested.

On Nov. 13, 1990, her telephone rang.

"They said 'Ms. Lowder, you need to come down to the clinic.' I cleaned up and I went down there, and they told me I had AIDS. They said they didn't know how much longer I have to live."

"I got in the car and I drove," she recalled. "Driving at a speed very high. I drove to my mother's job. ... I busted in screaming and hollering."

Her mother tried to calm her, and drove her home.

Then came breaking the news to her three teenage sons, her sole responsibility after her divorce and the subsequent death of their father.

"I told them I'm going to die — I've got the AIDS virus. The oldest one just looked at me. The youngest one didn't say anything. The second one usually does the talking. He said, 'we still love you — just don't tell anybody.'"

From that night on, for the next two years, she lived with the belief that she carried HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, a disease made all the more terrifying by her own lack of understanding and by the attitudes of those around her.

The mother of one of her children's friends had died from AIDS, and that friend had been taunted and ostracized. Ms. Lowder also knew the family of another AIDS sufferer whose children couldn't play with the neighbours' kids after word got out.

"They don't want that to happen," she recalled of her own children.

"I told them I was scared. Real scared."

But that night, she became angry, too.

"I started thinking about my kids. Who's going to take care of them the way I do? How long before I die? Why am I going to die?"

Immediately, she and her mother instituted what they considered safeguards against her infecting any relatives. Ms. Lowder used separate dishes and glasses, scrubbed after each use with bleach. She wouldn't let her sons kiss or hug her.

She kept the television on continually in a usually unsuccessful effort to block out her thoughts.

The nights were the worst.

"I'd go to bed every night thinking about dying. What colour do you want the casket to be? What dress do you want to be buried in? How are your kids going to take it? How will people treat them? I was afraid to go to sleep."

But scraps of encouragement nourished her in the weeks that followed.

A follow-up visit found her T-cell count, the white blood cells crucial to fighting infections, at a healthy high level. She joined a counselling group and learned about the virus, including that it was all right to hug and kiss her children.

Listening to other AIDS patients, she felt thankful that at least her family had stood by her. Others told of being abandoned by husbands, kicked out by parents, shunned by other relatives.

She so needed the comfort of the group, since the outside world offered little.

A nurse complained in front of Ms. Lowder about having to treat AIDS patients, and she walked into a church bathroom and overheard a conversation about her condition. A friend she had confided in betrayed her secret.

Soon, even her church no longer offered sanctuary.

"I would sit down at the end of the pew, sitting there by myself. Nobody else would sit in that row," she said.

She remembers a church elder delivering a stinging talk about AIDS as a punishment for fornication and other sins.

"It was a very hurtful place," recalled Ms. Lowder, who said the transfusion was her only risk factor for AIDS.

She arranged to have legal custody of her children transferred to her mother. Alone, she moved back to her hometown of Waycross from Miami, where she had lived off-and-on much of the '80s, to await her own deterioration. She planned suicide.

But when she joined a hospice group, counsellors heard her story and suggested she be re-tested.

Finally, in November 1992, nearly two years to the day she was told she was HIV-positive, another call came. She was told a taxi would pick her up, and then was greeted at the clinic with these words: "Guess what? Your HIV test came out negative."

"I just couldn't believe it," she said. And then, after a long pause, she added quietly, "I sat down and prayed for a while."

Assured the results had been doublechecked, she began calling her family. But the joy and relief soon turned to anger.

Less than a year later, Ms. Lowder sued the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services — the agency that performed the test — and the clinic and doctor who treated her.

In September 1994, a jury awarded her \$600,000 for pain and suffering, but cleared the clinic and said the bulk must be paid by the agency. Dr. Homer Kirkpatrick paid \$250,000.

## Acne can be treated

By Dr. Qassem Rushaidat

Acne or pimples is a skin problem that is not restricted to teenagers, since 95 per cent of adults develop some form of acne, at one time or the other in their lives.

Acne may range in severity from simple black or whiteheads, to the distressing cysts or scars.

The basic questions relevant to acne are: What is acne? When to treat it? And how to treat it?

Acne is a disease of the sebaceous glands. The glands secrete a fatty material and open directly in the hair follicles through a small pore. When the pores are clogged by debris and secretions, sometimes under hormonal changes, the bacterial population inside the glands increases, working on the fatty material there and breaking it into irritant substances that initiate and inflammatory reaction.

The early stage of blockage is what is known as blackhead (because of its contents of melanin, the substance responsible for tanning of the skin. They are not dirt!), or whiteheads which are the time bombs of acne, as they are responsible for the changes to pimples and other inflammatory stages of acne.

When to treat acne? One simple answer, which also applies for any other disease, is "the sooner the better." Any delay in treatment, or long waiting to "outgrow" the disease, is meaningless, and may end with skin and psychological scars.

There are certain facts about acne that everyone should know:

Acne is not a disease of dirtiness;

Chocolate does not cause acne;

Squeezing and popping of pimples, evacuates small amount of the comedones contents to the outside, while most of the contents are evacuated inside;

Whiteheads and not blackheads are the main problem in development of acne;

Acne can still affect people in their thirties or forties;

Acne may get worst one week before menstruation, and during mental stress.

So what can one do to treat acne?

— Wash your face at least twice a day to reduce the fatty material that may block the pores. Do not overscrub.

— Use oil-free cosmetics if needed.

— Do not squeeze pimples.

— Use soaps with sulphur or benzoyl peroxide. If dryness of skin occurs, reduce frequency of washing with soaps, use oil-free moisturizers.

Normally treat acne in three stages:

— Stage one: Treatment with peeling agents such as salicylic acid, sulphur, benzoyl peroxide, vitamin A. Acid reduces chances of having full blown pimples and its complications.

— Stage Two: In this stage pimples predominate, and treatment concentrates on reducing inflammatory changes, by using topical and/or oral antibiotics. In severe cases a Vitamin A derivative is given orally under strict supervision of a dermatologist.

— Stage Three: involves treatment of all complications of acne as scars, pigmentations etc. Chemical peeling (using alpha hydroxy acids), dermabrasion (shaving upper layers of skin by metallic brush), injection of collagen in skin (to elevate depressed scars), and injection of cortisone inside the skin (to reduce elevated scars).

The end result of treatment depends largely, on positive cooperation of the dermatologist and the patient to achieve the best cosmetic clearance of acne.

The writer is an Amman-based consultant dermatologist who contributed the above article to the Weekender.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NAME GAME

By Joel Davajan

ACROSS

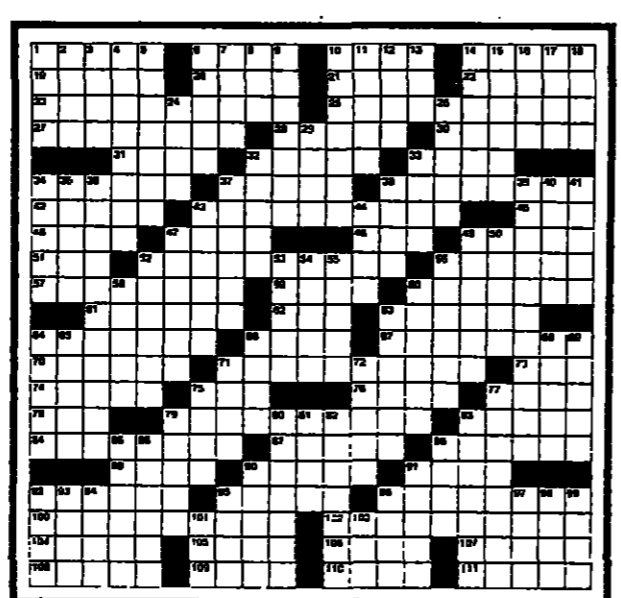
1. Bore
2. One sign of obesity
10. Gull's place
14. Salt comb
19. Wilms' — PA
20. Jail
21. Musical term
22. He do is —
23. Spongy pore
25. Litter's log
26. Worming matter
31. Dingo
32. Lode
33. London gallery
34. Hedge maker
37. Use a mangle
38. Rudiments

43. Flower cluster
44. Removable
45. Time zone letters
46. Kind of wire
47. Seed cover
48. Egg
49. "I've got up —"
50. "I've got up —"
51. Geology
52. Head connection
53. Chinese protein
54. Building block
55. Spring pool
56. Tearing
57. Actor Richard
58. One who makes
59. Conductor
60. Honey meadow

67. Bit and Military
70. Some are golden
71. Philon makes an
72. Head's heater
73. Cerebral
74. Strive out
75. Dismissal
76. "I've got up —"
77. Spongy pore
78. Head connection
79. Chinese protein
80. Building block
81. Spring pool
82. Tearing
83. Actor Richard
84. One who makes
85. Conductor
86. Honey meadow

89. Play-based
91. Dull's mallow
92. Journal
93. Descriptive
94. Emotional
95. Dismissal
96. Bourgeois
97. Spongy pore
98. Head connection
99. Chinese protein
100. Building block
101. Spring pool
102. Tearing
103. Actor Richard
104. One who makes
105. Conductor
106. Honey meadow

109. Understood
110. Lumberman's
111. Fastening
112. Descriptive
113. Emotional
114. Dismissal
115. Bourgeois
116. Spongy pore
117. Head connection
118. Chinese protein
119. Building block
120. Spring pool
121. Tearing
122. Actor Richard
123. One who makes
124. Conductor
125. Honey meadow



Diagramless, 21 x 21

By James Barrick

ACROSS

1. Bore
2. One sign of obesity
10. Gull's place
14. Salt comb
19. Wilms' — PA
20. Jail
21. Musical term
22. He do is —
23. Spongy pore
25. Litter's log
26. Worming matter
31. Dingo
32. Lode
33. London gallery
34. Hedge maker
37. Use a mangle
38. Rudiments

43. Flower cluster
44. Removable
45. Time zone letters
46. Kind of wire
47. Seed cover
48. Egg
49. "I've got up —"
50. "I've got up —"
51. Geology
52. Head connection
53. Chinese protein
54. Building block
55. Spring pool
56. Tearing
57. Actor Richard
58. One who makes
59. Conductor
60. Honey meadow

67. Bit and Military
70. Some are golden
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72. Head's heater
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120. Spring pool
121. Tearing
122. Actor Richard
123. One who makes
124. Conductor
125. Honey meadow

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Belligerent teenager is forewarned by grandmother: "Do not enter a battle of wits only half armed."
2. Advice to fathers: If your adolescent son wants to learn to drive, don't you stand in his way.
3. Duffell girl crocheted an Afghan for her cold Afghan hound.
4. Composer wanted to find fresh idea for aria in his new comic opera.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. KDJQKF ACCE LQTD LYCDJL QABDF JBSAQ  
KCBXQL BX WXTXZ STJL TL ITXJ  
YAJDZJTNJD WDBJX DCCQL AJD CX.

— By Earl Ireland

2. HOTSEYBTIA XYTX WQCKOTEC T WUXQWU  
HOTQN HYN KENYAEVQIC TC VU IQDYAB  
QDIQAC VQC CAUTZ HOTSEU.

— By Rita Salvato

3. AMI YRYEZUN OSTERG RB TELLITT BRN  
UPINSLUG DREAM ST AR FI U FUZZYUDIN  
KN PRONI TAUN.

— By Ed Haddadson

4. DEFICIDENT OYCNOC GAL BIALNOC. "ERI  
GO FI DEZG FC ZEN DYTIDIN IS RPSN?  
BENTN GTN ZEN UGHN GAL DIIFFNOC?"

— By Duane H. McGary

## The ins and outs of AIDS testing

The Associated Press

The attorney for a woman who wrongly believed for two years that she carried the AIDS virus says her case demonstrates the need for attention to the problem of inaccurate tests and their potentially shattering impact.

"I don't think it's unusual at all," Miami attorney Steve Mitchell said. "Since we got the verdict, I've been contacted by dozens and dozens of people who have had inaccurate test results."

A Florida jury last September awarded \$600,000 in damages to Vernelle Lowder, who learned she was HIV-negative only after being re-tested. Mr. Mitchell said he believes health care providers too easily accept lab results, which he deems a particular problem with AIDS testing because the training is to move the patient quickly from denial to learning to live with the virus.

While AIDS tests are considered reliable, experts caution that there are possibilities for human error, from mislabeling specimens to misreading the tests.

They also warn that false negative results also are possible from error or because of a "window" period in the first weeks after infection.

Dr. Charles Schable, chief of the diagnostic serology section of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, said the CDC and the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors recommend that all patients with positive HIV results after one test be re-tested as a precaution.

## ANSWERS

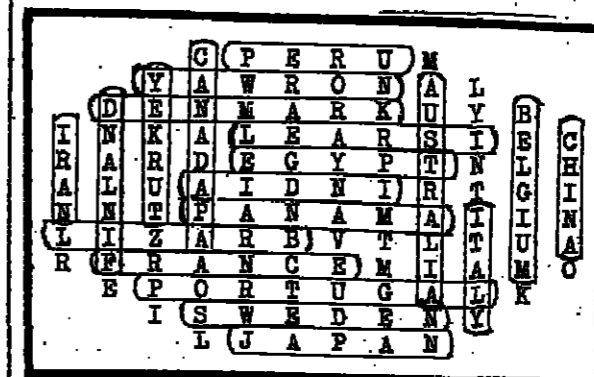
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. British Aerospace Corporation and Aerospatiale, a French company.
2. Sir William Herschel.
3. Jiddu Krishnamurthi.
4. Mao Tze Tong.
5. a) Writing for several solo instruments to be played together.  
b) A flat-topped hill.
6. The tendency to think that one's group or race is superior to the others.
7. The Beaufort Scale.

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PUZZLES

ROUND THE GLOBE



## 'I should be so lucky..'

Can you really bring good fortune your way by positive thinking? Emma Cook reports.

IN THE introduction to *The Education of a Poker Player*, Al Alvarez explains: "To bet on horses, dogs, or raindrops sliding down the windowpane is, at best, a romantic weakness. You have to believe in your luck, in your special relationship with fate, in the possibility that you are somehow chosen and blessed."

Can you really influence your fate by believing strongly enough in your own good fortune? Jean, 52, believes so. "I've always been a lucky person," she says confidently. "I feel special, as if someone up there favours me." In January

she won £300 on the National Lottery. Three weeks ago she had a full house at her bingo club and walked out with £450. Last Wednesday she came away with another £200.

Jean believes she can control her luck: She always sits in the same place and keeps an old penny in her pocket to rub over the cards before the game begins. "When I changed seats after my first win, I lost. I went back to my old position and won again, so I'm not taking any more chances."

It would be easy to dismiss Jean's run of wins as coincidence. But there is

growing scientific support for her notion that feeling lucky may contribute to her gambling success. Richard Wiseman, senior lecturer in psychology at Hertfordshire University, has just embarked on a two-year research programme examining people's beliefs about luck, how it affects their life and whether it is possible to create one's own.

Camelot, the consortium running the National Lottery, is taking a keen interest. Having put a brave public face on the fact that millions more people than expected have been winning small amounts on the lottery, it has begun to look closely at how often the average punter might feel lucky and whether that has any bearing on the number of times he or she picks winning numbers.

Dr. Wiseman and his team are interviewing volunteers and asking them questions such as: Do they see themselves as born lucky, do they believe their luck changes from day to day, and is it a skill they feel they can control? These views will be combined with experimental tests based entirely on chance — a

computerised coin-flipping exercise and a guessing game based on choosing which of four possible pictures is in an envelope — to see if there is a significant link between thought and action.

Already some patterns are beginning to emerge. Dr. Wiseman believes there is a link between supposed luck and one's general outlook on life. People who tend to be outgoing and extrovert are, he says, more able to create "lucky" opportunities for themselves. Conversely, those who believe they attract misfortune tend to have a less sunny outlook.

Depending on the outcome of the research, the team may be able to point to certain kinds of behaviour that characterise a "lucky person." This may mean, ultimately, a set of rules to enable even the unluckiest punters to manipulate fate favourably. "One of the end points of the project is to develop a set of lifestyle changes," he says. "We might be able to say 'Try looking at the world this way' or 'pinpoint certain things to do.'"

In the orate surround-

ings of Tooting's Gala bingo hall in South London, I decide to test if it is possible to attract good luck by feeling lucky. I cannot remember winning anything in my life: during a one-off visit to a point-to-point meeting the horse I bet on broke its leg and had to be shot two yards from the finishing line.

The National Lottery has been similarly disastrous. Since its launch last November, I have filled in one ticket every week and have yet to achieve more than two correct numbers. The Hertfordshire psychology team might say my negative outlook is clouding any chance of success.

Surely that is something I can change. It's Wednesday evening at the Gala and the place is packed out, mostly with women — who constitute 80 per cent of Britain's bingo-going population — all eager to win the new national jackpot of £27,000. Taking a leaf out of Jean's book, I trust to superstition. Wearing a pair of favourite old earrings (the nearest I've got to a mascot), I sit down on the ninth (my supposed lucky num-

ber) row from the back. My neighbour, deep in concentration, looks up triumphantly. She is one number short of a full house.

I smile positively at her and try to exude optimism. Someone in the audience yells "full house" and we start on the next sheet. She looks disappointed. "You've either got it or you haven't," she says. "I've never been lucky." Five rows down, bingo player Marcia feels very differently. She clasps a small gold heart in one hand while she crosses off the numbers. In 16 months she has won more than £2,000 — with the help of her charm, she claims "I'd never come here without it."

An hour later I have managed to achieve two complete rows but the full house eludes me. Rather than fall into doomed, self-fulfilling-disaster mode, I decide to test my luck one more time on the lottery. The next morning I approach my newswriter to buy a ticket, smiling, cheerful and wearing my earrings.

Rationally, I feel these precautions will have no effect on my chances what-

soever. They don't. None of my numbers comes up. Perhaps I wasn't believing hard enough.

Susan Blackmore, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of West England, Bristol, says it would not have made the blindest bit of difference. "Most of the time we don't win anything. So when we do it's tempting to attribute it to our own actions: Carrying lucky mascots, crossing fingers, walking around ladders etc." But although this makes us feel more powerful there is no proof any of it works. "It's what we call the illusion of control."

She explains that our response to luck and superstition is based very much on where we perceive our "focus of control" to be. There are two types of personalities: 'internals' believe that what they do from within themselves is effective, whereas 'externals' think that everything outside is responsible.

In short, those who trust to superstition tend to look elsewhere for guidance and meaning rather than relying

on inner resources. "It's no accident," adds Dr. Blackmore, "that more females believe in the paranormal than males. It may have something to do with our culture, where women generally feel they have less control over their lives."

According to Dr. Wiseman, my superficial attempts to adopt a mood of optimism and superstition would not work in a situation where I was trying to influence pure chance. "If you were going for a job interview, then it would make a difference."

Although simply smiling and being bubbly isn't necessarily enough, he admonishes. "You've got to have more sincerity in your view about the world. It's more than just glossy behaviour."

Perhaps it is enough to believe sincerely I will win next Saturday's lottery.

As Alvarez writes: "Against all the evidence, you have to be an optimist." It seems there are the ones who have all the luck. Or at least they think they do, which is half the battle won.

## Srouer defends House record

(Continued from page 1)

the speech given by the IAF member and the limited debate on it in the House.

So did the conflict between the IAF and the interior minister, Salameh Hammad, over an incident where IAF deputies were prevented from visiting the Swaga prison and the threat by the Minister of Supply Adel Oudah to sue Deputy Fawaz Al Zu'bi (Ramtha) required a great amount of behind the scene work, says Mr. Srouer.

The incident between Mr. Qudah and Mr. Zu'bi ended with the minister apologising to the lawmaker. That was a precedent, says Mr. Srouer.

After numerous meetings with the IAF, other lawmakers and the government, the conflict over Swaga ended with the formation of a committee, which issued a statement asserting the right of lawmakers to visit the prison, where some Islamists convicted of subversion were being held.

In both cases, the House protected its role but people knew little of the tremendous effort that went into doing that, says Mr. Srouer.

As speaker of the House, he says, "my role is to protect the House" and apply the regulations in a way that would guarantee each deputy's right to express his/her views on all issues.

But the House speaker also has to prevent any member from insulting their colleagues or slandering them. In that regard, the controversy over the way the House dealt with Deputy Toujan Faisal is a case in point.

Many lawmakers have protested against the way in which Ms. Faisal addressed the House. Others demanded action against the deputy, who antagonised most of her colleagues.

Mr. Srouer affirms that the internal regulations of the House provide sufficient mechanisms for dealing with such issues. "But dialogue is the best way to solve any problem, and I believe that the problem with the deputy is over. We are beyond it now."

While admitting that the session did not produce enough in terms of legislation, Mr. Srouer justifies that by pointing to the "many important and crucial issues with which the House has had to deal during the session."

Speaking with the same calmness that characterises his style of chairing the House meetings, Mr. Srouer points out that among the major issues with which the House dealt was the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, the vote of confidence in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the debate over the 1995 budget law.

All these issues took up most of the House's time, says Mr. Srouer. But they helped manifest the maturity of the House and the democratic way in which deputies addressed these issues, controversial and sensitive as they were.

In the case of the peace treaty, Mr. Srouer notes the "extremely strong" feelings that both its opponents and proponents had. But the House's debate was a measure of the "high feeling of responsibility and respect for democracy that deputies have."

Asked to comment on accusations that much of the House's time is wasted on rhetoric and long speeches, Mr. Srouer asserts that it is the right of deputies to speak on all issues raised on the floor.

But the speaker notes that though most deputies are members of parliamentary groups, these blocs are not political parties which follow strict guidelines and

party discipline.

Therefore, he says, deputies exercise their rights to address issues raised as most of them have different opinions on them. But the speaker notes that there was clear response in the session to requests for shorter speeches and that fewer deputies spoke this time.

Mr. Srouer says that he and the House committees have agreed that they would discuss draft legislation during the recess of the House so that these bills will be ready for debate when the House convenes, expected in an extraordinary session in May or June.

"This will be a precedent for the House and will lead to the completion of work on many draft laws in the coming session."

The speaker promises that the House will work to solve logistical problems that result from the lack of research and other facilities in the House.

"The lack of such facilities is a big problem in light of the many issues with which the House has to deal. But effort will be made to provide the legislature with as much facilities as possible, especially that it now enjoys financial independence."

Mr. Srouer asserts that consolidating the democratic process is a major concern for him.

"I was firm in protecting the democratic dialogue in the House and the right of its members to express their views. And I was also firm in saving the House's time and preventing any offences against the House, its members and its speaker," says Mr. Srouer.

"Parliament is the house of democracy. And by saying that, I do not mean to say that democracy does not exist elsewhere. What I mean is simply that democracy is a way of life that we all, especially in the House, have to protect."

with the French government."

Le Monde quoted an internal DST report as saying that the five Americans concentrated their "clandestine research" on economic and commercial activities, particularly the audiovisual and telecommunications sectors. France and the United States have accused each other in the past of conducting industrial espionage.

In the late 1980s, U.S. intelligence agencies accused French agents of spying on American banks and computer firms, searching U.S. businessmen's garbage and hotel rooms, and recruiting Air France employees to provide information about Americans.

Le Monde cited three separate incidents in which the five Americans allegedly sought to pay off informants — including ranking French civil servants — in exchange for information about France's position in world trade talks and on the state-run France Telecom's structure.

The paper said Mrs. Harri-man was twice summoned on the issue — once, on Jan. 26, to inform her of the French findings and again, on Feb. 10, because Mr. Pasqua felt the Americans were dragging their feet in moving the five Americans out of France.

## Soviet atomic nightmare continues in Ural Mountains

By Sergei Shargorodsky

The Associated Press

MUSLIUMOVO, Russia

— The shallow creek runs beneath an abandoned mill. Cows wander knee-deep in the water. In the summer, it is where the village's children swim.

This pastoral scene is deceptive, however. The Techa River is radioactive and has been for almost half a century.

The nearby Mayak Nuclear Complex, also known as Chelyabinsk-65, began dumping raw nuclear waste into the Ural Mountains river in 1949, when it built the Soviet Union's first reactor to produce plutonium for atomic bombs.

By the mid-1950s, radiation at the top-secret plant affected 124,000 people living along the Techa, which flows through a pretty forest and lake region.

About 20 villages around Musliumovo, with their 8,000 to 9,000 residents, were evacuated because radiation levels were considered too dangerous.

Musliumovo was not, even though radiation in the village often exceeded that recorded at the evacu-

ated sites. Many villagers suspect they were left behind as human guinea pigs.

"For 40 years, they've been checking how a living being can survive in a radiation zone," said Valentina Kaidaneya, a teacher.

"A lot of professors studying us must be dead by now, but we are still alive," she told a visiting group of foreign scientists, politicians and reporters this fall.

Officials are at a loss to explain why Musliumovo, 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow, was not relocated. A senior scientist said he saw the evacuation order with his own eyes.

"I don't think it was done on purpose, but probably because the village was too big and too expensive to evacuate," said Mira Kosenko, an expert on radiation medicine from Chelyabinsk, the regional capital.

Whatever the case, thousands of people remained in Musliumovo, using the river water for their households and letting cattle graze in contaminated fields, unaware of the poison creeping into their bones.

The former Soviet Union zealously guarded its nuclear secrets, and public health hardly mattered. So the villagers were not told anything about Strontium-90 and Cesium-137. Instead, they were told to keep out of the river because it was dirty.

The mostly Bashkir-Tatar people of Musliumovo did not listen. For them, the Techa was a source of life. If they fell sick, medical personnel were under orders to keep silent about radiation, Ms. Kosenko said.

The revelation came in 1989, when the Russian government first mentioned Mayak's legacy of nuclear accidents and radioactive pollution. Detailed reports later brought more knowledge and more despair.

The village's people learned that the level of radiation accumulated in their bodies greatly exceeded permissible amounts, that scientists had found traces of even deadlier plutonium in the area, and that the river was so contaminated its silt could be classified as solid nuclear waste.

Doctors began to speak

of the region's problems with immune deficiencies, bone pains, blood disorders, chronic radiation sickness and cancers. Infant mortality is said to be high. But scientific studies of the village are only just starting, so there are no reliable figures on health problems.

While radiation is clearly a danger, some physicians are cautious about attributing its effects. They say the heavily industrialised Chelyabinsk region also has health problems from general pollution.

"As people learn more about the health effects, they begin to insist on leaving this place. They're very much concerned," said Gennady Gabitov, the head of the district administration in nearby Kuznash.

Plans to resettle the 4,378 people in Musliumovo and the adjacent train stop found no government approval. However, the government did start to pump money into the areas affected by the Soviet nuclear programme and in 1993 adopted a special rehabilitation plan for disaster zones.

Given Russia's economic

woes, the programme began to collapse almost as soon as it was introduced.

The finance ministry slashed planned spending. In 1993, the region got about \$2 per cent of the money allocated and even less in 1994, said Vladimir Panteleyev, who oversees the distribution of funds in the area.

In Musliumovo, construction was halted on dozens of housing projects that could allow evacuation of the most dangerous homes close to the river. Government compensation to some radiation victims has not been paid for months.

"The people live very poorly. They don't have any good food to improve their health, just enough to survive," said Ms. Kaidaneya, a mother of three.

Ms. Kaidaneya now teaches her pupils about radiation.

"While the state is thinking about resettling us, we must educate our children so they decide to leave this place. But I'm afraid some of us will perish before we achieve this goal," she said.

## U.S. may lose influence at U.N. to EU

By Evelyn Leopold

Reuters

UNITED NATIONS —

With the U.S. Congress threatening to cut off funds for United Nations peacekeeping, Washington's influence in the world body could be reduced substantially in favour of Europe.

The negative reaction to the United Nations by a Republican Congress coincides with an enlarged 15-member European Union (EU).

The EU has four seats in the Security Council and collectively pays more for dues, peacekeeping and voluntary contributions than the United States.

For example, the U.S. share of peacekeeping budget is 31.7 per cent, the aggregate EU contribution is 36 per cent.

Nevertheless, all nations with high contributions want a more equitable assessment of U.N. dues, which would lower U.S. peacekeeping payments but

not as much as Washington wants.

Apprehensive, however, that the United States and other nations might renege or be in continual arrears regardless of the level of assessment, Western European are contemplating penalties in exchange for revising dues.

These include a ban on lucrative peacekeeping contracts or ineligibility for senior U.N. staff posts, diplomats said.

U.S. firms earn nearly half a billion dollars annually out of a total of \$3.6 billion spent. Or for every dollar Washington contributes to the United Nations, about 28 cents is returned to the U.S. economy, according to the U.N. Association of the United States.

But even before the U.S. house of representatives voted last week to cut off most peacekeeping contributions by charging the U.N. for voluntary pay-

ments, the Europeans made a strong bid to take over the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

After the resignation and death of UNICEF's legendary American director James Grant last month, France, the current EU chairman, lobbied Secretary General Boutros Ghali to choose one of three European candidates instead of the American nominee, William Foege, a former head of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the United States is the single largest contributor to UNICEF, French and Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee said the Europeans as a group paid more, adding: "And we pay on time."

The House voted last week to deduct from Washington's \$1.3 billion peacekeeping assessment the costs the Defence Department incurs in U.S.-run military wiping out the U.S.

contribution.

Among the activities which might be charged back to the U.N. could be patrolling an allied-no-fly zone over Iraq, never formally approved by the United Nations, or the U.S. intervention in Haiti, approved by the Security Council after months of lobbying by Washington.

The United Nations has 17 peacekeeping missions with nearly 70,000 troops, close to 40,000 of them in Bosnia alone at an annual cost of more than \$3 billion. The United States fields about 1,000 troops, almost all of them in Macedonia.

Nevertheless, U.S. reaction has been subdued, with public battles left to U.S. ambassador, Madeleine Albright.

One reason, say diplomats, is that any angry comments would aggravate Congress further.

Another is that the measure, still to go before the Senate, was not passed in

the House by the two-thirds vote necessary to override a threatened veto by President Bill Clinton.

Asked, however, if the Europeans and Japan would or could rescue U.N. peacekeeping if the congressional bill became law, the reply from diplomats was a resounding "no."

Said Kofi Annan, the U.N. undersecretary general in charge of peacekeeping, "We are doing too much with too little. If the resources are to be cut further, our efforts will be severely hampered."

Dr. Ghali, however, was more philosophical, saying that the U.N. would have to accept an scaling back during this 50th anniversary year. "That's all."

"If we could not find a way around it, we would have to cut back U.N. activities," he said. "We have managed for the past 49 years. So I expect we will continue to manage during the next 50 years."

## PLO seeks external help

(Continued from page 1)

and the group of non-aligned countries and also address the (U.N.) Security Council.

"The peace process is trapped in a vicious circle and is beginning to lose its credibility and its capacity to continue," the statement added.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS: The continuation of settlements in the occupied territories and their closure constitute a flagrant violation of all the commitments which paved the way to the launch of the peace process" which aimed to end Israeli occupation in line with U.N. resolu-

The statement said that Israeli settlement expansion in and around Arab East Jerusalem "blocks any possibility of reaching an historic settlement."

NEGOTIATIONS: "The impasse in the negotiations is the result of a deliberate and planned policy of the Israeli government which has used various pretexts to obstruct the implementation" of the self-rule accord, the statement said.

The PLO condemned the "continued Israeli obstruction of the process of negotiations, which has led to a delay

in the timetable" of Israeli troop redeployment on the West Bank and the staging of Palestinian elections, now seven months behind schedule.

The Oslo autonomy accord must be taken as a whole and any attempt to implement it without the scheduled redeployment "threatens the agreement with collapse and leads the peace process to an impasse," it said.

PRISONERS: The PLO Executive Committee accused Israel of "failing to honour" its pledges to release Palestinian prisoners, which was a "key element in the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord."

EGYPT AND JORDAN: It also charged Israel was "de-

liberately blocking economic ties between the Palestinians and Egypt and Jordan, which has nothing to do with the pretext of security put forward by Israel and which only serves to increase tension."

PALESTINIANS: Arafat is to head a committee tasked with opening "a comprehensive dialogue with all the Palestinian forces and personalities."

The Executive Committee also set itself another session for early March in Tunis to draw in more members and review progress, while the Palestine Central Council, a steering body, would be convened "in the near future."

Mr. Arafat and the committee members launched the

campaign by putting their plans to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak but Foreign Minister Amr Musa gave a lukewarm response.

"As for the regionalisation or internationalisation of the process, this is a Palestinian point of view that has been expressed but there is still some time to go before doing so, I believe," Mr. Musa told reporters after the meeting.

The committee statement, read by PLO spokesman and committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbio, said there would then be meetings with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein.

## ILO says world employment prospects gloomy

GENEVA (Agencies)—The International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Wednesday that the chances of reducing record levels of global unemployment are remote in the next few years, and it urged a policy overhaul.

Contradicting Western trends and advice from other international bodies, the U.N. agency said abolition of minimum wages and other measures to cut labour costs are not the solution in industrialised nations.

In its "World Employment" report, the ILO said the main hope for rich and poor countries alike lies in boosting prosperity through freer trade and export-led growth. It brushed aside fears about manufacturing jobs moving from the United States and Europe to cheap labour countries, saying these would be more than offset by gains in high-tech and service industries.

"In 1994, 30 per cent of the global labour force — about 820 million people — were unemployed or underemployed in what has become the worst crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s," the ILO said. In industrialised countries, 35 million workers were without a job.

"Under current scenarios, growth will not be sufficient

to cure Europe's endemic employment ills, reverse the decline in real U.S. incomes, halt the spread of poverty and underemployment in developing countries or prevent the marginalisation of an entire continent — Africa," the report said.

Unemployment in Spain is expected to rise to 24 per cent, in Finland 17 per cent and Ireland 15 per cent this year, the ILO said. Chronic underemployment will continue in parts of Latin America and most of Africa.

The jobless rate in the United States is forecast at slightly below six per cent this year. Japan is expected to be the lowest with 2.8 per cent, followed by Switzerland with 3.8 per cent, it said.

"The present employment situation is both morally unacceptable and economically irrational," said ILO Director-General Michel Hansenne.

The ILO criticised government policy for putting too much emphasis on fighting inflation and being "defeatist" about achieving full employment.

With a proper combination of economic policies nationally and internationally, the jobless rate could be halved over the next decade, it said.

The ILO urged more inter-

## Policy change needed

national cooperation to stabilise financial markets, reduce balance of payments problems and long-term interest rates; more emphasis on export-led industrial development and above all implementation of an international trade liberalisation accord that came into effect at the start of this year.

Reversing a long-held position about protection for workers in vulnerable industries, the ILO said a trade free-for-all would benefit developing countries because of the long-term wealth and job-creation effects of freer trade despite initial costs.

Countries like France, Germany and New Zealand, are currently trying to introduce more competition on the labour market — a policy recommended by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other bodies like the World Bank.

But the ILO dismissed as a myth suggestions that strict employment protection, strong unions and generous welfare systems were to blame for Europe's unemployment woes.

The relatively low level of unemployment in the United States was achieved at the cost of lower productivity, lower wages and more poverty among the working

population, it said. The abolition of the minimum wage — a key social measure — has no impact on demand for labour, it added.

In Britain, despite a huge decline in union membership in the 1980s and 1990s, real wages increased more than productivity and unemployment remained stubbornly above two million, it said.

By contrast, productivity remained high in countries like Switzerland, which enjoyed high wages and a strong degree of regulation, it said.

The ILO said the shift to a market economy in formerly communist countries in eastern and central Europe is turning out to be much tougher than had been expected.

The agency said that "the transition of East and Central Europe to the market economy is proving far more difficult than foreseen, and the social costs — including widespread poverty and mass unemployment — much higher than anticipated. Parts of the region risk a 'social explosion'."

The report said that "an equilibrium must be found 'between social sustainability and an adequate level of economic restructuring' in eastern and central Europe. So-

cial and labour market conditions continue to deteriorate in the region.

The document said that the problems encountered may force adoption of a more gradual approach to change and a halt to the "continuous decline in investment, living standards, employment and social protection."

It noted that it is vital for social costs to be kept within tolerable limits to avoid political upheaval that could threaten the whole process of shifting to a market-based economy.

"All the countries concerned experienced sharp falls in output during the years 1990-93. Relative improvements have been recorded since 1992 in central Europe (notably in the Czech Republic and Hungary), while the recession has deepened in Bulgaria, Romania and the countries of the former USSR."

The ILO said the result of all this has been a considerable fall in employment ranging from 11.5 per cent in the Czech Republic to 22 per cent in Poland and 28 per cent in Hungary between 1989 and 1994. But even with these sharp drops, the decline in employment has been much lower than the fall in output, which suggests that unsustainable labour hoard-

ing is taking place and the real level of unemployment could soon skyrocket.

This stark prospect argues poorly both for living standards and for the productivity increases necessary for improved export performance and economic recovery.

The report said that the unemployment problem in the region can ultimately be solved only by expansion of output, but "initial optimism about the inflow of foreign direct investment has turned out to have been misplaced."

Total inflow since 1990 has been less than \$10 billion for the nine countries, with 80 per cent of it going to Hungary and the Czech Republic. Only negligible amounts have gone to transition economies in the former Soviet Union.

"It is imperative to improve on these investment trends if the problems of mass unemployment are to be overcome," the ILO says — and achieving this will require completion of reforms to create a reliable system of property rights and well-functioning capital markets, among other things.

A central policy issue with direct implications for the employment situation is the pace at which trade liberalisation, privatisation and enterprise restructuring should proceed."

## Dollar, European currencies bullied by strong mark

LONDON (R)—The burly German mark had the dollar and weaker European currencies reeling Wednesday, with dealers looking in vain for central bank intervention to save the puny U.S. currency from going down again.

The dollar was trading just above a 28-month low against the mark as dealers waited for Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to enter the ring.

He is due to testify before the Senate Banking Committee at 1500 GMT and his comments will give markets an idea of how seriously the U.S. central bank takes the dollar's decline.

"First and foremost the dollar's bending in the face of a rampaging mark in Europe," said economist David Brown.

Earlier dealers had searched in vain for central bank intervention after the dollar slumped to a fresh 28-month low against the mark.

The merciless mark also gave the lira, peseta and French franc a beating and the pound cast a temporary shadow over

a government bond auction. The dollar has retreated against the mark as investors moved into the German currency as a so-called "safe-haven" investment to protect themselves from the turbulence hitting weaker units.

The mark/lira rate reached another record high Wednesday when the mark bulldozed through 1,100 lire to a 1,107.50 high despite the Bank of Italy raising interest rates Tuesday.

The surging franc also pushed the French franc to a low of 3,495.7 a mark, a level not visited since early November, 1993.

The franc was undermined by Tuesday's opinion polls, which showed a drastic narrowing in conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's lead in the presidential election race. Mr. Balladur is the financial markets' preferred candidate to win in the April/May poll.

Dealers said concerted intervention by the central banks of the Group of Seven major industrial nations was needed to restore confidence in the U.S. currency.

## U.S., Mexico sign \$20b economic rescue pact

WASHINGTON (R)—The United States and Mexico Tuesday signed a definitive agreement that opens up \$20 billion in U.S. aid in return for Mexico's promise to set its badly shaken economic house in order.

The agreement, secured in part by precious Mexican oil export revenues and underpinned by tough belt-tightening pledges, followed five days of difficult and complex high-level negotiations.

The signature by U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz of four documents on terms and conditions meant that the rescue package authorised three weeks ago by President Bill Clinton could now go forward.

"Under these agreements, Mexico should be able to take the steps necessary to end its liquidity crisis and in time the Mexican economy, which is fundamentally sound, should stabilise," Mr. Rubin said at a Treasury Department ceremony.

"The ultimate success of this programme depends on Mexico, and Mexico has made it clear that it intends to

take tough measures to turn the situation around," he added.

While U.S. officials expressed the belief that the agreement should calm markets and lead to a turnaround in the Mexican economy with renewed growth soon, the immediate reaction of Mexican stocks was to take a nosedive.

At the same time, the peso, which officials believe should strengthen as a result of the country's agreement to put a brake on public spending, closed slightly lower.

However, even the dollar, which has been under attack in recent days, in part because of the concern about the fate of the Mexican package, continued to feel the disapproval of traders.

Mr. Ortiz, in remarks, blamed international currency market reactions to the Mexican government's devaluation of the peso in December for the current economic crisis, and said the aid package would restore stability to the markets.

The U.S. support will anchor an international rescue package worth about \$50 billion.

## Clinton appoints new economic strategist

WASHINGTON (AFP)—President Bill Clinton appointed Tuesday a trade policy expert to be the nation's chief economic strategist as the head of the National Economic Council.

Laura D'Andrea Tyson, 47, replaced Robert Rubin who left the council in January to become treasury secretary.

Mr. Clinton, speaking at the White House, praised Ms. Tyson as a "credible voice" for the administration on the economy and said she had provided "unfailing frank, direct and principled advice."

Ms. Tyson was an economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley before joining the administration as chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers, a panel formed in 1949 by Congress to provide the president with input from economists.

The move underscored Mr. Clinton's efforts to boost the visibility of the National Economic Council, which he formed to coordinate economic policy among government agencies dealing with financial matters.

In accepting the appointment, Mr. Tyson defended the administration's record on the economy and said its approach to policymaking

had been "coherent and consistent."

"As a result of the vision and the strategy, the nation is enjoying the most salutary combination of low unemployment, low inflation, strong output growth that it has enjoyed in a generation," Ms. Tyson said. "And that accomplishment is due to the vision and the principles of this president."

Mr. Clinton said his administration's economic policies had created six million new jobs in the United States, slashed the deficit and provided tax breaks to middle-income families.

"The results have clearly been felt," he said, adding that these achievements had been made despite gloom-doom predictions of an imminent recession and disasters.

Ms. Tyson, who will be the first woman to chair the National Economic Council, has emerged as one of the administration's most valued players and has often been called upon to defend Mr. Clinton's economic policies.

Despite solid professional credentials, many of Ms. Tyson's fellow economists have dismissed her as a lightweight with some critics charging that she is better at public relations than at public policy.

## Algeria sets up privatisation control body

TUNIS (R)—Algeria has set up an official body to control partial privatisation operations, the Algerian news agency APS reported. It said Industry Restructuring and Participation Minister Mourad Benachoune named a "privatisation committee" charged with overseeing the implementation of rules and regulations during the selling of shares or stocks in partial privatisation operations. The committee is presided over by a magistrate and includes representatives of the accounting court, finance ministry, treasury and main labour unions, the agency added. On Sunday, Algerian state radio said that a ministry of privatisation was to be set up next March to oversee the transfer of state-owned companies to the private sector. It said that the government has drawn up a list of companies involved and a timetable, and is discussing with unions a draft law on a larger privatisation programme. The Algerian government, after over three decades of state control, is preparing to shift its mismanaged and mostly-broke public companies under free-market rules.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1995

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go to the right sources for the data you need. Don't get advice from those who are not cognizant of all the facts or you will get wrong ideas.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Obtain important information about a project you are interested in this morning before you go ahead with definite plans. Use your wisdom and ingenuity.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you handle routine duties in a more up to date way today, you will get more benefits. Study a new plan before making any changes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't neglect important tasks early in the day. Try to cooperate with fellow associates. Strive for more harmony and peace.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take care you don't take on any heavy expenditures to money in the evening. Allow time to engage in creative activity so that you can have more happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Postpone going ahead with a new interest you have in mind and wait for a better time. Evening is fine for recreation and having fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve the foundation of your life so that you can have added abundance in the days ahead. Get rid of annoying conditions at home this evening so that you can have peace of mind.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Iron out any problems with others in a quiet and tactful manner this morning. Seek the company of congenial people in the evening and have pleasant times.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This morning you have to use care and thought in handling monetary problems. Use your intuitive faculties for best results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use a different attitude in handling a puzzling situation and you get better results. Relax in the company of good friends this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have hidden desires that need more studies before you pursue them. Strive for increased happiness with the one person you are fond of.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Some of your friends may have problems today, so be sure to give a helping hand. Show others you have practical wisdom in any situation that comes up.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to gain your aims by using more modern methods and get better results. A direct course is the best course to follow now. Relax in the evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Private endeavours are fine to follow today, but be sure to carry through with what associates expect of you without deviating from the original plan.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have excellent plans for getting ahead today, but don't be too hasty accepting them in operation. Make good arrangements first and then all will go smoothly.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to be more successful in business dealings today and how to be more productive. Be more reassuring to mate and he or she will appreciate you more.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listening with interest to what allies have to say today helps them to cooperate with you more and you with them. Be wise so that everything is successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Making needed changes where you work will bring worthwhile results today. The evening can be a most happy one with the one you adore.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today, you are going to take a closer look at the new interest you have had in mind. Delve into it now and get excellent results. Take no risk in motion or problems could develop.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are conditions at home that you'll want to clear up today, but you could lose out on important business matters, so postpone for now and take the action which seems most logical.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Attain important data you need from the right sources, then go ahead with the plans you've made for today. Smile and be happy to those you encounter even though your heart may not be in it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Assets from different sources could come your way at this time. The daytime may be taxing but the evening can be delightful for you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation where you know it is not right for you. Be poised at all times today and show confidence.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher ups. Come to a fine understanding with associates and go out and enjoy the evening.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

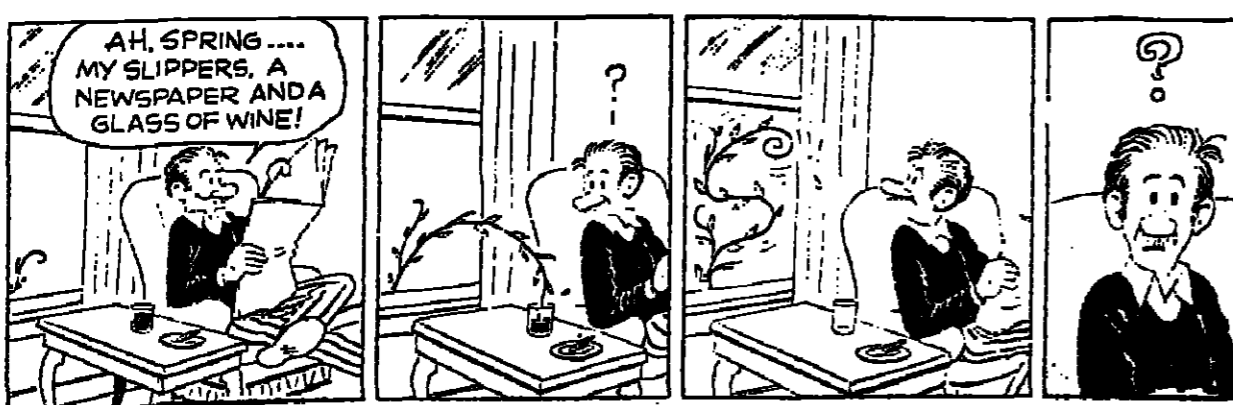
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



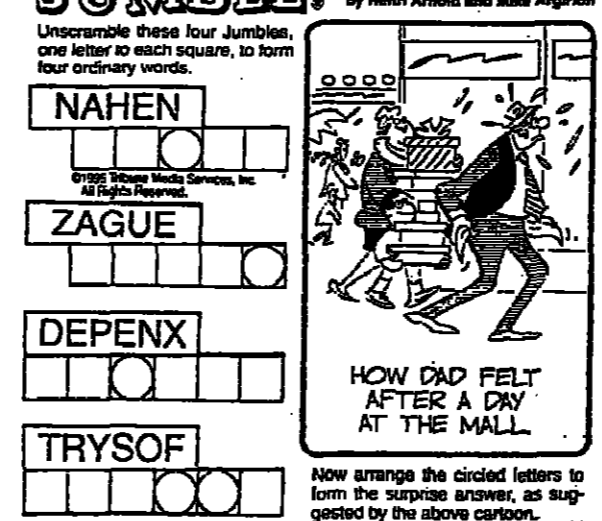
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

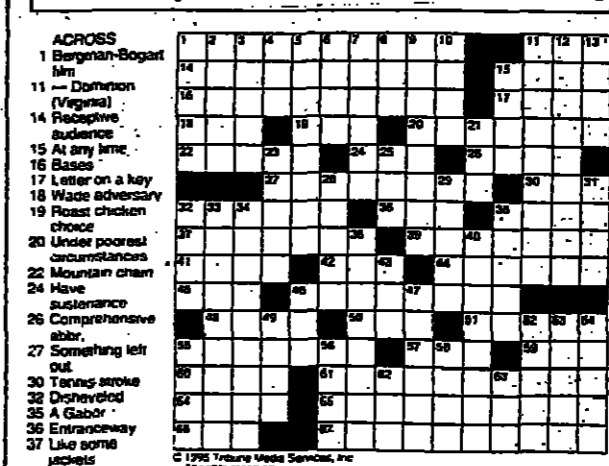
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BLOAT PHOTO JUSTLY GENIUS

Answer: What the portrait photographer gave the family — HIS BEST SHOT

## THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller



ACROSS

1. Bergen-Bogart
2. Domain
3. (Vagina)
4. Pridgeline
5. At any time
6. Bales
7. Letter on a key
8. Waste adversary
9. Rust chicken
10. Under poorest
11. Mountain chain
12. Have
13. Comprehensive
14. Something left out
15. Tacking stroke
16. Dishydrated
17. A Gabor
18. Enraptured
19. Like some
20. Adopt
21. Booming
22. Get a bread on
23. Aids a snip
24. Suit — name
25. Estimates
26. Officer
27. Meme
28. Toy pistol ammo
29. Paragon player
30. Sooner
31. "Honey"
32. Crya Em
33. Tail tale teller
34. Game genres
35. Hostile weapons
36. Not exclusive
37. Actress Sue
38. Lapsing
39. Not accepted
40. Certain Christian
41. Enjoy a Sunday morning rest
42. "Say, no!"
43. Prudent
44. Some children
45. Rupture
46. Curbing
47. Thinly scattered
48. Jig handles
49. Parish church
50. Nubbin
51. Comes up
52. Rejoice
53. Malignant
54. Sharp life line?
55. Rugged
56. Males
57. Worth: abate

# business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Safeway prepares to become public shareholding company

Jordan's Safeway is expected to float shares for public subscription towards the end of this year as it changes from private ownership to a public shareholding company. According to Azzam Al Masri, Safeway's general manager, the move aims at expanding the services and opening more branches in various parts of the Kingdom. Mr. Masri, noting that the expansion scheme could not be achieved without financial backing, revealed that the Safeway management is contacting some founders to prepare an in-depth, comprehensive study regarding the transfer to a public shareholding company and the financial requirements to realise this plan by the end of the year (Al Aswaq).

Wasef Azar, general manager of the Business Bank, sees the cancellation of the credit ceiling, fixed by the Central Bank at 90 per cent of the total deposits, as a step that eases the competition among banks for deposits and stems the rise in interest rates. He explained that the drive for acquiring deposits over the past two months had negatively affected the activities of the banks in general and given large banks an edge over others as they were able to pay higher interest and dominate the market (Al Aswaq).

A Swiss company will set up a holding firm in Jordan to manage joint projects and will open a regional office in the area (Al Aswaq).

Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) has JD 190 million in investments at book value but, at market value, the investments are worth JD 500 million. Sixty per cent of these investments, or JD 114 million at book value, are the corporation's portfolio at the Amman Financial Market. This portfolio, at market value, is estimated at JD 300 million. JIC Director-General Mohammad Al Batayneh said the corporation's plan was to sell part of its holdings to the private sector, such as the sale of 55 per cent of JIC ownership in Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel in which JIC had an 87 per cent stake. Mr. Batayneh said the corporation would also sell part of its holdings in JETT (Jordan Express Tourist Transport), Hammamat-Main (Jordan Tourism Spa Complex) and Philadelphia Hotel. JIC owns 12 per cent of JETT; it also has JD 95 million investments in three companies — potash, cement and phosphate — out of its AFM portfolio of JD 114 million (Al Aswaq).

Israel's ZIM shipping line has begun a regular call at Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba and will soon choose a Jordanian agent, shipping agents said Tuesday. The agents said ZIM Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. had chartered two vessels, Kenya Star and Durban Star, to serve Aqaba with one call every 20 days. Kenya Star unloaded 20 containers for Jordanian traders from South and East African ports and left Aqaba on Tuesday. The vessels will not carry an Israeli flag until a detailed accord is reached between Jordan and Israel in line with their peace treaty last October. Representatives of ZIM visited Jordan to see agents keen to represent them. A decision on an agent is expected in March, shipping agents said. Rami Qutub, managing director of International Freight Services and Trading Company, told Reuters ZIM added Aqaba as a stop because Jordan's peace with Israel paved the way for normal commercial ties. (Reuters & Al Ra'i).

## Arab-American businessman caught in Gaza red tape

GAZA (R) — Yasser El Farra once owned a store called Import City on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Now the Palestinian-American entrepreneur wants to bring some of the good life to impoverished Gaza City.

"It's been torture," he said. Israeli border closures and burgeoning bureaucracy in Palestinian-ruled Gaza have frustrated Mr. Farra's efforts to import goods including food and appliances from Egypt since he returned to the strip in July after 21 years in California.

"This is what blows my mind out," he said in slightly accented American English at the Gaza branch of his Palestine International Trading Company (PITCO).

"We have tried to bring the products since we started — nothing. I am paying salaries and rent, for nothing," he said.

Palestinian businessmen complain of difficulties dealing with a nascent administration that has yet to establish strong middle management and which refers many deci-

sions to its head, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Farra, 40, one of six brothers who emigrated from Gaza to the United States, said he had grown used to business the American way and wanted to give Gazans — economically dependent on Israel — a wider choice of products from the Arab World.

He returned to Gaza the same month as Chairman Arafat did, hoping to cash in on a peace dividend with Israel.

"I get depressed when somebody tells me 'tomorrow.' I don't know (that word) in my book. Here in Gaza, that's what happens. You get to a stage and they tell you: 'Come tomorrow,'" he said.

A graduate in computer studies from California State University at Northridge, Mr. Farra beamed as he recalled realising his American dream — real estate ventures and his store on Hollywood Boulevard.

His American wife and three teenage boys stayed in Pasadena while he tried to get down to business and he

will join the family in the U.S. in March, when he will decide on making a permanent move, while one of his brothers looks after his Gaza City interests.

Even in California his heart would always be in his homeland, listed on his business card as Palestine, where he estimates he could do annual trade of \$50 million.

"You go wherever you go — you can be in heaven — and this country will still be your home," Mr. Farra said.

Meanwhile Mr. Farra, whose double-breasted blazer and yellow turtleneck shirt add a splash of west coast colour to the drab and dusty surroundings, rails against paper-pushers stalling his consignments.

"They just don't know what they are doing," Mr. Farra said about officials in the self-rule authority.

"Their answer: 'Go talk to Yasser Arafat.' So Yasser Arafat doesn't have nothing to do but to talk to me and to the next person and the next person?"

"And it's just like he's going to run everything? He might as well run my life for me — tell me what I should eat what I shouldn't," Mr. Farra said, echoing complaints among some Palestinians that Mr. Arafat fails to delegate responsibility.

Mr. Farra does not mince his words about Israel either, saying border closures, such as that imposed after two Islamic suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis last month, were starving Palestinians of goods and wages.

"This border brings everything. You close it and you kill these people here," he said.

"I have a lot of factories in

the region that are willing to do business with us and I like to have the people here have the choice. Now ... the choice is all controlled by Israel. Am I going to be all my life run by an Israeli government?"

Mr. Farra says he could probably get through a lot of red tape if he took some short-cuts, but he prefers to "bug the hell" out of the bureaucrats.

"I have a guy ... that's all he does. He goes every day, nagging them ... but I don't want to give something under the table. Business shouldn't be done that way," he stresses.

"I found out from my banker ... that \$350 million in the last three months was gone from Gaza. So there were investors who came here with the money, with the notion to build and do some business."

## Lebanon overhauls banking, and finance laws

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon, which is seeking to win back its role as a regional banking centre and financial market, has begun a sweeping revision of its banking and finance laws to bring them up to date with modern requirements.

Nassar Saidi, first vice-governor of the Bank of Lebanon, told Reuters in an interview a joint committee formed by the bank and the justice ministry is working on the task under his chairmanship.

"Our banking and finance laws need to be modernised. We also need a number of new laws," said Mr. Saidi, who expects the job to take at least a year.

"We are trying to give a legal and technical infrastructure for the operation of markets in Lebanon. We would like to have international norms, be up to date and to secure transparency for the markets," he said.

The committee, which began work about three months ago, wants to graft elements of U.S. and British finance and banking legislation onto Lebanon's existing French-originated laws.

"What we are trying to do is something unique or different, to get as much as possible a hybrid system, to benefit from Anglo-Saxon law and legal tradition and marry it with the French legislation which we have," Mr. Saidi said.

"The financial markets in the United States and the United Kingdom expanded at a much more rapid pace and so did their legislation. We are trying to get the benefit of this," he added.

Updating the laws is part of the government's effort to regain the predominant position Beirut held as a banking centre and financial market.

place in the Middle East 20 years ago, before the 1975-90 civil war.

The laws haven't been revised for decades, a member of the committee who asked not to be identified told Reuters. "It's a huge undertaking if you want to do it properly. It's tremendously important."

The committee includes some 23 Lebanese lawyers, legal experts, economists, bankers and financial market experts. It meets weekly and also calls on Lebanese expatriates working in legal and financial circles in New York, London and Paris when needed, Mr. Saidi said.

Its proposals will eventually require parliamentary approval to become law.

"We don't have a legal framework for modern financial instruments which evolved or were created over the last 20 years," Mr. Saidi said. "Broadly, we need new legislation for instruments which didn't exist in Lebanon before the war, things like mutual funds which are very important."

The committee will also seek to define financial intermediaries and their role, authorisation and licensing.

It will draft listing requirements for financial markets and will draft a capital markets law whose chief purpose, Mr. Saidi said, will be to separate the role of the regulatory authorities from market operations.

Lebanon's banking legislation also needs modernisation, Mr. Saidi said. In particular, the committee will define the functions and responsibilities of investment banks, which began emerging in Beirut for the first time last year, in relation to commercial banks and other financial institutions.

## Morocco earns \$567m from fish exports

RABAT (R) — Morocco's fish exports rose slightly to \$567 million last year even though volume dropped, official figures released on Tuesday showed.

"Morocco exported 183,600 tonnes of fish worth \$567 million last year compared with 197,200 tonnes in the previous year," the Office Des Changes said.

In 1993, fish export revenues were 5.01 billion dirhams (\$563 million), it added. Morocco exports mainly to Europe and Japan.

Morocco has enormous sea wealth along its 3,500 kilometres Atlantic coastline. Some 400 local fishing units operate in waters full of mackerel, sardines, anchovies, tuna, squid, shrimps and many other species.

## Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 2/22/95	Tel Aviv Close 2/22/95
Sterling Pound	1.5865	1.5818**
Deutsche Mark	1.4705	1.4712
Swiss Franc	1.2428	1.2465**
French Franc	5.1280	5.1496**
Japanese Yen	97.16	96.38
European Currency Unit	1.2743	1.2676**

\*\* Bid for STG  
\* Current Opening @ 9:00 A.M. GMT

## Forex Exchange Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.00	6.25	6.75
Sterling Pound	6.31	6.50	6.87	7.56
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.81	6.69	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.31	3.58	3.81	4.11
French Franc	5.43	5.25	5.12	6.62
Japanese Yen	110.00	108.00	106.00	104.00
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.96	6.28	6.84

Source: 2/22/1995

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 2/22/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6950
Sterling Pound	1.0995	1.1050
Deutsche Mark	0.4750	0.4764
Swiss Franc	0.5550	0.5608
French Franc	0.1351	0.1358
Japanese Yen	0.7156	0.7192
Dutch Guilder	0.4202	0.4223
Swedish Krona	0.0430	0.0432
Italian Lira	0.0430	0.0432
Belgian Franc	0.0430	0.0432

\* Per 100

## Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8280	1.8450
Lebanese Lira	0.041625	0.042795
Saudi Riyal	0.16428	0.1667
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3500
Omani Riyal	0.1898	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.2940	1.3110
UAE Dirham	0.1885	0.1901
Greek Drachma	0.2835	0.3265
Cypriot Pound	1.4820	1.5225

\* Per 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3990/00	Canadian dollar
	1.4774/84	Deutsche marks
	1.6566/76	Dutch guilders
	1.2510/20	Swiss francs
	30.44/48	Belgian francs
	5.1625/75	French francs
	1628.09/0	Italian lire
	97.24/33	Japanese yen
	7.3425/25	Swedish crowns
	6.5050/00	Norwegian crowns
	5.8421/71	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5808/18	
One ounce of gold	\$379.05/379.45	

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
ARAB BANK P.C.	1000	188,400	188.400	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1000	4,800	4.800	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	1000	2,400	2.400	
BANK OF JORDAN	1000	2,400	2.400	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
THE HOUSING BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN GULF BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
BRIT ISLAMIC SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1000	1,400	1.400	
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1000	1,400	1.400	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1,400	1.400	
BANKS SECTOR	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1000	1,400	1.400	
INSURANCE SECTOR	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN HUMAN MINERAL	1000	1,400	1.400	
NATIONAL PORTING SHIPING LINES	1000	1,400	1.400	
NATIONAL PORTING SECURITIES	1000	1,400	1.400	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMOORE HOTELS	1000	1,400	1.400	
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1000	1,400	1.400	
SERVICES SECTOR	1000	1,400	1.400	
THE ARAB POTASH FACTORIES	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1000	1,400	1.400	
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UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1000	1,400	1.400	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1000	1,400	1.400	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	1000	1,400	1.400	
GRAND TOTAL	1000	1,400	1.400	
NO. OF TRADER SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	47969			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	42412			

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## TENNIS ROUNDUP

## No Sampras for U.S. against Italy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras has told U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson that he will not play in the quarter-final tie against Italy next month.

"Pete didn't make himself available," Gullikson told Reuters in a telephone interview from his Florida home Monday.

"Obviously you hope for the best players and wish they all made themselves available. This is just something to deal with."

Gullikson said the timing of the March 31-April 2 match in Palermo, Sicily was bad for Sampras. "He just didn't want to stay in Europe for that long of a time," Gullikson said.

Sampras is scheduled to be in Europe from April 10 playing tournaments in preparation for the French Open starting May 29.

"In all fairness to Pete these are just flat out bad dates," Gullikson said of the Davis Cup schedule.

Ironically, Gullikson said the health problems of his twin brother Tim, who coaches Sampras, might have contributed to a decision not to play.

"Pete has had a rough few months and is just starting to come to terms with Tim's situation," Gullikson, 43, said of his brother's recent diagnosis as having a brain tumour.

At last month's Australian Open, Sampras broke down and openly sobbed on court during his quarter-final win against Jim Courier after a fan had urged him to win it for his coach, who was flying home at the time after a seizure in Melbourne.

"Pete has had to do this in a very public way and he needs to take a deep breath and that might be one factor of not coming to the Davis Cup," Gullikson said.

Since the initial diagnosis last week, his brother has left the hospital and is back home in a Chicago suburb seeking other opinions before deciding on a course of treatment, Gullikson said.

"He looks good, he is in good spirits and you would never know he is sick. He's a competitor and he's ready to do whatever he's got to do to get healthy."

As for a return to coaching for Tim, Gullikson said: "Tennis is a far, far distant priority (for him) right now."

Without Sampras to consider, the U.S. captain said he will look at six others for the two single spots starting with a talk with world number two Andre Agassi sometime this week.

"There might be hope for this one," Gullikson said of Agassi, who has not played Davis Cup since 1993.

Todd Martin and Courier, who played in the 4-1 opening round win over France earlier this month, along with Michael Chang, Aaron Krick-



Pete Sampras

stein and Malivai Washington are all being considered for singles in the outdoor tie on clay against Italy, according to Gullikson.

## Agassi easily wins

IN PHILADELPHIA, Andre Agassi, the Australian and U.S. Open champion, made a strong entry in the \$714,250 U.S. Indoor on Tuesday by overpowering Jan Apell, a left-handed Swedish Davis Cup player, 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi, ranked second in the world, was all business in overpowering Apell, who entered the tournament as a qualifier. Agassi got to set point in the first set with a service ace and won it when Apell hit a backhand long.

Agassi finished it with ease in the second set, using his second service break to go up 5-2 and winning it in the next game with a passing shot down the line.

Apell has had more success as a doubles player, teaming with fellow Swede Jonas Bjorkman to reach the finals of the French Open last year.

Agassi said he hasn't decided whether he'll play Davis Cup matches this year, saying he can't compromise on his goal of trying to overtake Pete Sampras as the top-ranked player in the world.

"I want to be the best player and so does Pete," Agassi said. "It's a matter of scheduling that's involved and it's difficult to sacrifice your goal for the Davis Cup."

As for the match, "I got an early jump and that was helpful. I don't go on the court with the expectation of hav-

ing easy matches. I felt strong tonight."

In other first-round matches Tuesday, Luiz Mattar of Brazil, taking advantage of unerring groundstrokes and the mistakes of his opponent, beat veteran Brad Gilbert 6-0, 6-4.

Gilbert, who's appeared in the tournament since 1983 and has won more than 500 career matches, played erratically in the first set. Upset over netting so many balls, he banged his racket on the court several times.

Gilbert pulled himself together in the second set and made a match of it, taking part in several volleying duels with Mattar. The Brazilian won when Gilbert was long on the last two returns of the 10th game.

Mattar, winner of the Coral Springs last year, is ranked No. 75. Gilbert this week fell out of the first 100 to 147th. He was runner-up last year in Memphis for his best finish.

In another match, Bret Steven, New Zealander who lives in Bermuda, overcame Fabrice Santoro of France 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

Santoro, who hits two-handed shots on both forehand and backhand, is ranked No. 45 and Steven No. 64.

Also, Renzo Furlan of Italy, ranked 49th, reached the second round with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over qualifier David Nankin of South Africa, who is No. 203.

Luke Jensen, a wild-card entry, defeated Jared Palmer 6-2, 6-3.

**Kafelnikov into second round**

In Stuttgart, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, fresh off his victory in Milan, routed Peter Korda 6-2, 6-1 Tuesday in the opening round of the \$2.25-million Eurocard Open.

## Conner posts closest win

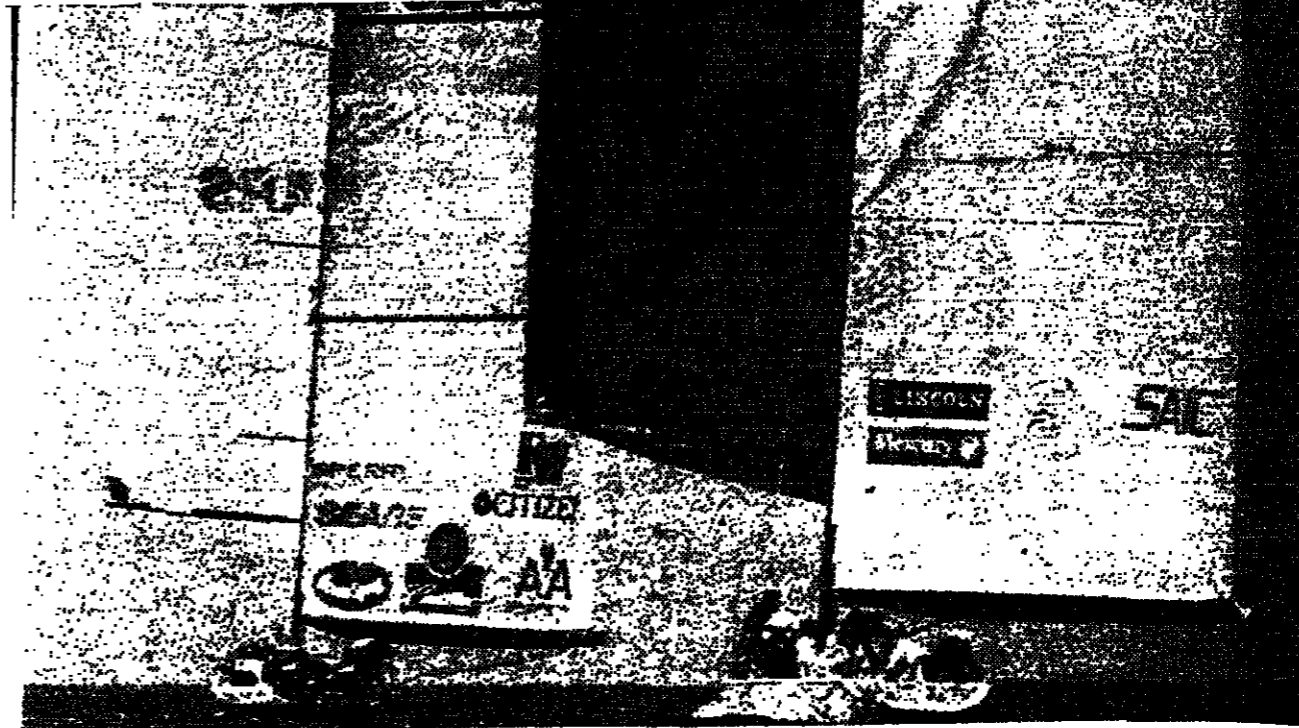
SAN DIEGO (AP) — After 18.55 miles of sailing, Dennis Conner pushed Stars and Stripes across the finish line three seconds ahead of Young America on Tuesday, the closest finish in the 1995 America's Cup trials.

Three seconds translates to less than half the length of a 75-foot (25-metre) racing sloop.

The previous closest margins in the 1995 trials were a 12-second win by Team New Zealand over Nippon on Jan. 31, and a 14-second victory by America3 over Young America on Jan. 29.

The closest finish ever in an America's Cup trial was Italy's one-second win over New Zealand in 1992. Italy then posted the closest finish ever in a finals race, beating America3 by three seconds in race two.

Young America, skippered by America's Cup newcomer Kevin Mahaney, had won five straight races, including two over Stars and Stripes. The victory allowed Conner, a three-time America's Cup winner, to cut Young America's lead in the Citizen Cup standings to 21-17. The America3 women's crew is third with seven points.



Stars and Stripes (left) and Young America head downwind in a tight race that was won by Stars and Stripes in the America's Cup trials (AFP photo)

On the Challenger Course, the featured matchup between national rivals Team New Zealand and NZL-39 lost some of its edge when the latter broke its main starboard Jib Winch during its first tack on the first Leg. NZL-39 made a game effort, but lost by 1 minute, 28 seconds, its first defeat in five races in the third-round.

In another national match, John Bertrand's OneAustralia dispatched Sydney 95 by 1:59, and Japan handed Rioja de Espana its 17th loss in 18 races, winning by 1:51.

Stars and Stripes won the start by one second and built its lead to 34 seconds at the top mark after Conner pinned Mahaney to leeward and

protest in the second round. In another national match, John Bertrand's OneAustralia dispatched Sydney 95 by 1:59, and Japan handed Rioja de Espana its 17th loss in 18 races, winning by 1:51.

Stars and Stripes won the start by one second and built its lead to 34 seconds at the top mark after Conner pinned Mahaney to leeward and

forced him out to the starboard tack layline. Young America closed to

20 seconds at the next mark, only to have Conner take a 32-second lead after the windward third leg.

Young America made up time on each of the next two legs, training by just 12 seconds turning onto the final downwind leg. It continued to close the gap, but ran out of time as Stars and Stripes hit the buoy end of the line just before Young America reached the committee boat end.

Team New Zealand padded its Louis Vuitton Cup lead to 36 points, while OneAustralia jumped back

into a second-place tie with NZL-39 with 29 points. Nippon is next with 18 points in the seven-yacht challenger series.

NZL-39 mastman David Brooke sustained a bloody gash on his head when he apparently was hit by the spinnaker pole early in the race. A crewmember bandaged the wound, securing the bandage with duct tape, and Brooke sailed on.

The Challengers finish their round on Wednesday while the Defenders have three more days to go.

## America's Cup

Team New Zealand is 5-0 this round and 16-1 overall, its only loss coming on a

forced him out to the starboard tack layline.

Young America closed to

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Berlin says no to 2004 Olympics

BERLIN (AFP) — The mayor of Berlin ruled out Tuesday a bid by Berlin to the 2004 Olympic Games following the city's failure to win the 2000 Olympics. "A fresh bid is not on the agenda," said Eberhard Diepgen, publishing a regional government report into the failed campaign for the 2000 Games.

Olympic Committee president Walter Troger said a fresh German bid was unlikely for more than 10 years. For that to succeed he said Germany must first secure the necessary finances and get the German people behind the bid.

**Police probe Darnyi**

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian police said they were investigating Olympic gold medalist swimmer Tamas Darnyi and wrestler Peter Farkas after a man said the two sportsmen had had his car stolen. According to the Budapest daily Nepszabadsag, Darnyi and Farkas loaned three million forints (\$26,500) to the alleged victim, whose name has not been released. When he did not repay the money on time, the two sportsmen sent a collection agency to recover the debt. The agency's employees took the men's car and told him it will only be returned when he pays up, the newspaper said.

**Man arrested in Genoa murder probe**

GENOA (AFP) — Carlo Giacomini, 31, of Milan, has been arrested in connection with the fight which led to a Genoa football supporter being stabbed to death last month, judicial officials said Wednesday. Giacomini was charged with a public order offence and detained in Genoa. Vincenzo Spagnolo, a Genoa fan, was killed in the fight before the match between Genoa and Italian champions AC Milan on Jan. 29. A Milan fan, Simone Barbaglia, was later arrested for murder. Giacomini was suspected of having been one of the ringleaders in the fight. The death sparked off street riots and caused all sporting fixtures to be called off in mourning day.

**Player accused of assaulting disabled girl**

LONDON (R) — New Zealand rugby league international Brendan Tuata was accused on Tuesday of punching a disabled 11-year-old girl in her wheelchair. Police confirmed that Tuata, who plays for the British team Featherstone Rovers, was questioned and released on bail over the alleged assault on Melissa Haughin, who has spina bifida. She says she was punched after watching her team, Workington Town, playing Tuata's side on Saturday.

## Ticket pitch to rich begins

ATLANTA (AFP) — A mail campaign starts this week to sell 50,000-dollar luxury ticket packages to the 1996 Olympics, with the pitch aimed at 150,000 wealthy corporate executives. Olympic organisers said 100 of the packages have already been sold. He would not say how much money they hope to raise with the "patron plan" or how many of the packages they hope to sell. The deal gives selected businessmen the chance to purchase seats before the public begin May 1. A record 11 million tickets will be available for the Atlanta Games, with about seven million available to the public. Each buyer receives two excellent seats for the opening and closing ceremonies plus the major event on each day of the Atlanta Games.

**Christie pulls out of 200 metres**

LONDON (AFP) — Linford Christie, who set a new world indoor 200 metres record in France last Sunday, has pulled out of the 200m at the Invitation meeting in Birmingham this Saturday. Christie had treatment for a back problem after the run and has decided to compete in only the 60m. The Olympic and world 100m champion revealed recently he would be concentrating more on the longer sprint this year and could even double up in the World Championships in Gothenburg. On Sunday he broke the World Indoor 200 metres record with a time of 20.35secs which eclipsed Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose's eight year record of 20.36.

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## Cavs beat Knicks; Suns lose to Celtics

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a dreadful fourth quarter and held off a furious Knicks rally to beat New York 99-91 Tuesday night behind John Williams' 19 points in the U.S. National Basketball Association.

Williams hit a 19-foot jumper with 1:03 remaining to give the Cavaliers a 93-87 lead after the Knicks had stormed back from a basket secured the win for the Cavaliers, they had scored just eight points in the final period.

Danny Ferry, in only his third start of the season, scored 20 points for Cleveland.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 33 points on 13-for-17 shooting.

**Mavericks 102, Bulls 97:** In Landover, Jim Jackson scored 44 points and Dallas overcame a 21-point, third-quarter deficit.

Jackson scored 30 points in the second half, including a layup that put the Mavericks ahead for good, 99-97, with 41 seconds left. He also made a pair of free throws with 15 seconds remaining for the final margin.

Washington, which has lost five straight at home and 10 of 11 overall, got 30 points from Juwan Howard.

**Bulls 105, Hawks 88:** In Atlanta, Toni Kukoc hit his first seven shots and scored 21 points to spark Chicago.

The Bulls, who blew a 19-point lead in a loss at Charlotte the previous night, saw most of a 16-point, second-quarter lead evaporate against the Hawks, who pulled to 74-70 on Steve Smith's 3-pointer with 2:06 left in the third quarter.

But the Bulls, taking advantage of five consecutive Atlanta turnovers, stretched the lead to 80-71 in the final 90 seconds of the period, and eventually extended it to 90-72 on a basket by Kukoc with 8:35 remaining.

Mookie Blaylock led the Hawks with 22 points.

**Spurs 98, Rockets 97:** In Houston, David Robinson's

dunk with 2.2 seconds left spoiled the Houston homecoming of Clyde Drexler and ruined a great comeback by the Rockets, who trailed by 23 points in the first half.

Mario Elie hit a jumper with 5.4 seconds remaining to give the Rockets their only lead, 97-96. Following a timeout, Robinson made a two-handed jam off a pass from Sean Elliott.

Dennis Rodman had a season-high 30 rebounds for the Spurs. Hakeem Olajuwon paced the Rockets with 30 points and Drexler, a former college star at Houston, had 29.

**Celtics 129, Suns 121:** In Phoenix, Dee Brown scored a career-high 41 points to lead the Boston Celtics over the Phoenix Suns.

Brown had 27 in the first half, when Boston opened a 25-point lead that wobbled the Suns, which lost for only the fifth time at home this season.

A.C. Green scored 24 points. Dan Majerle 23 and Kevin Johnson 21 each for the Suns, who are 2-3 in their last five home games.

**Nuggets 118, Clippers 86:** In Denver, Robert Pack came off the bench to get 20 points and 10 assists as the Denver Nuggets gave new head coach Bernie Bickerstaff a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in his debut.

Under the leadership of Bickerstaff, named the Nuggets' head coach Monday, Denver got its biggest win of the season.

The Nuggets held the Clippers to 36 per cent shooting.

**Blazers 99, Timberwolves 86:** In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 29 points and Rod Strickland added 22 as Portland coasted to a 99-86 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves Tuesday night.

The Trail Blazers' Tim Porter, playing only his third game since missing the entire first half of the season, had points, 12 in the final period. Isaiah Rider led Minnesota with 21 points and Doug West added 19.

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**RESULTS**

Chicago 105, Hawks 88

Cleveland 99, New York 91

Dallas 102, Washington 97

San Antonio 98, Houston 87

Denver 118, LA Clippers 90

Boston 129, Phoenix 121

Portland 99, Minnesota 86

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♠AQJ8 AK9 A82 ♠A10  
What is your opening bid?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠63 AQ105 92 ♠AJ982  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 Pass 1 ♠ ?  
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A3 542 654 ♠AKQ52  
Partner opens the bidding with two no-trump. What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:  
♠Q75 10542 3 ♠A9643  
Partner opens the bidding with one no-trump. What action do you take?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠K43 A9 AK963 ♠A64  
What is your opening bid?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q83 AJ73 K1092 ♠A5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?

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Tel.: 699238

Tel.: 677420

## Basketball's eventful week concludes Friday

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It has been quite a busy week for the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF), players, referees and fans with at least one basketball match every night.

Like many other sports federations who have organised special tournaments during the holy month of Ramadan, the JBF has offered its share by organising the annual all-star tournament as well as hosting a top Iraqi team — Al Naft — to play with the youth's Under-18 national team as part of their preparations for the Asian championship which will be held March 3-11 in the Philippines.

Al Naft have so far won both their matches against the national team: 82-74 (45-38) in Irbid and 62-68 (31-26) in Amman. They are scheduled to meet Al Orthodoxy and the U-18 before they conclude their visit Friday.

The U-18 team has also been playing alongside the rest of the Kingdom's players in the all-star tournament in which players have been divided into five teams bearing the names of their sponsors: Mitsubishi, Mercedes, Hyundai, Citroen and Toyota.

This is the third annual all-star tournament grouping most of the country's top



Yousef Zaghloul

players representing at least seven clubs. The tournament was won by Mitsubishi in 1993 and Mercedes in 1992.

Mercedes have adopted the Under-18 national team to represent them in this tournament which concludes on Al Orthodoxy's court Friday.

So far Mitsubishi are the only unbeaten team and have won three matches. They will next play Toyota Thursday night and seem set to win the championship trophy.

The Mercedes team only lost to Mitsubishi which includes a host of experienced players led by

Yousef Zaghloul who scored 27 points in their last match. His teammates include Marwan Al Saeedi, Ziyad Nabulsi and Fadi Msih, while Mercedes' young lineup includes promising players, yet not well known to basketball fans. They include Zeid Alkhas, Mahmoud Sha'ban and Ma'an Odeh. Their coaches are former national team stars Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saeed.

Citroen includes an aggressive fast-playing group including Sami Sadulain, Naser Bassam, Yousef Abu Baker and Saqr Khirfan, and are now third in the standings.

Fourth-placed Hyundai have some of the top names at Orthodoxy, Ahli and Jazireh including Samir Murqus, Nasr Alawneh, Ghazi Enabi, Walid Badran and Munaser Abdul Tayyeb.

Toyota are last after losing three matches. They are led by Al Ahli Star Marwan Ma'touq and include Ramez Hammoudeh, Mohammad Al Shamali, Hani Al Taher, Faisal Nsour and Jan Sahlieh.

The sponsoring companies have set aside cash prizes to all competing players: Players of the winning team will get JD 70 each, the runners up will receive JD 55, the third placed players JD 50 and the fourth and fifth placed finishers JD 45 each.

## Police charge Cantona for assault on fan

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United star Eric Cantona was charged with common assault by police here on Tuesday following the incident in which he became involved in a brawl with a Crystal Palace fan four weeks ago.

Cantona will appear in court on March 23rd and could face the maximum penalty of six months in prison and/or a fine of 5,000 pounds.

But it is unlikely that the Frenchman will go to prison as the charge of common assault is the least serious of those in its category and rarely results in a jail term.

The police could have charged Cantona with the more serious offence of causing actual bodily harm which carries a greater likelihood of imprisonment.

A police spokesman said a report had now been submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and a response from them was awaited.

The CPS, the organisation ultimately responsible for bringing criminal cases to court, have the power to upgrade, downgrade or drop charges altogether.

But the decision to bring a charge of common assault suggests the police felt that the injuries sustained by Matthew Simmons — the fan involved in the incident — did not warrant a graver charge.

The charge was made after Cantona was interviewed by detectives for three hours in a



Manchester United's French soccer star Eric Cantona (front seat passenger) arrives at the police station (AFP photo)

South London Police station.

Cantona, who was accompanied by Manchester United's lawyer Maurice Watkins and club security chief Ned Kelly, was driven away at high speed after his interview to return to Manchester.

Police press officer Frank Parker said: "Mr Eric Cantona was charged with the following offence, relating to an incident at Crystal Palace football club. The charge is common assault in that on January 25, 1995, at Crystal Palace football ground at Selhurst Park, he did assault Matthew Simmons."

The charge follows the events at Crystal Palace where television pictures showed Cantona launching a

"kung-fu" style kick at an allegedly abusive fan.

The incident had occurred during Manchester United's league match at Selhurst Park after Cantona had been sent off for lasting out at a Crystal Palace defender.

As he walked from the pitch, Simmons allegedly ran towards the touchline, screaming foul abuse at the United star.

Witnesses spoke of how Simmons had run down 11 rows of seats, shouting "Fxxx off back to France, you French bastard." Cantona responded to the alleged provocation by jumping over the advertising boards with a two-footed kick that appeared to land on Sim-

mons' chest.

A brief exchange of fists ensued before Cantona was led from the scene by his team-mate Peter Schmeichel.

The incident caused an uproar and led to a long period of soul-searching in English football and the British press about both Cantona's behaviour and the type of hooligan abuse that the Frenchman was alleged to have sustained.

United banned the Frenchman until the end of the season and fined him 20,000 pounds for his part in the incident while Simmons was also banned from attending Crystal Palace matches for the rest of the season.

The English Football Association (FA) welcomed the club's disciplinary measures but this Friday they will return their own verdict on the Frenchman when he will appear before a specially convened FA disciplinary hearing.

The FA confirmed later on Tuesday that they have no plans to drop their own misconduct charge against Cantona.

"We have had no representations from the police about our own hearing affecting the legal position, so we will go ahead," said FA spokesman Mike Parry.

"The police were made aware that Eric Cantona faces an FA Commission on Friday, but they haven't been back to us, so we intend to proceed with our arrangements," he added.

Cantona was also allegedly involved in assault on a British television crew while on holiday on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe ten days ago.

But the Frenchman has since threatened to take legal action against the ITN crew for libel and invasion of privacy.

Cantona's Manchester United team-mate Paul Ince, who has also been interviewed over his involvement in the confusion which followed the Crystal Palace incident, was bailed to return to the same south London police station on an unpublished date.

## Williams confident of winning

DIDCOT, England (AFP) — The Williams Renault team unveiled its 1995 Formula One FW17 challenger which Technical Director Patrick Head said was aimed at bringing the team both the Drivers' and Constructors' World Championships here on Tuesday.

Williams took the team title last year, but driver Damon Hill was beaten for the Drivers' crown by Michael Schumacher in a Benetton at the final race in Australia, a race won by Nigel Mansell in another Williams.

Team owner Frank Williams chose rising British star David Coulthard over Mansell for his team this year, with Mansell going to the rival McLaren Mercedes team.

After his difficult year last season, taking over team leadership on the death of Ayrton Senna, Hill said at the launch that he felt he had "only really got going towards the end of last year. This season I feel really prepared."

Hill said over the winter off season that he had been "trained a lot harder, and preparing myself mentally a lot more."

He predicted much closer racing this year because of the new rules, and Frank Williams said he expected more teams, like Jordan Peugeot, Ligier Mugen Honda, and Tyrrell Yamaha to be battling with the front runners.

Like all the other Formula One teams launching cars designed to the radically revised 1995 rules, Williams kept many areas secret, notably the critical aerodynamic areas.

But there were no dramatic mid-wings as there are on the new McLaren though Head said Williams had investigated this idea some years ago.

"We don't think we have to rush to bolt a mid wing on because of McLaren's," he commented.

However, a cover was hastily thrown over the rear end of the car when journalists and photographers

started looking too closely underneath it.

Chief Designer Adrian Newey had said moments before that the new regulations made both aerodynamic and mechanical road holding equally important, and that it was "interesting because you can concentrate on new areas."

One of the striking features was that the front wings were dropped down under the high, narrow nose, a design used by Benetton in previous years.

The team said it "better suits the (new) front wing restrictions, although in truth it is a large styling change for a small performance gain."

Head said there were also innovations in the suspension design which would remain hidden under the bodywork for some time.

## Balloonist crosses Pacific

CHICAGO (AFP) — An American balloonist fulfilled his quest to become the first person to pilot a balloon solo across the Pacific Ocean, landing in Canada Tuesday after a three-day journey from South Korea.

Steve Fossett, a 50-year-old Chicago stockbroker, passed over Vancouver Island in British Columbia and over to the mainland after the grueling journey in subzero temperatures, landing near leader, Saskatchewan.

"He's tired, he wants to come home," David Slavsky, a Loyola University astronomer and spokesman for the expedition, said before Fossett touched down at 6 p.m. (1000 GMT).

The balloonist originally hoped to land in either North Dakota or Montana, according to his ground team, but was eager to get back to earth and planned a landing in Alberta or Saskatchewan late Tuesday despite warnings of

high winds.

"Nothing seems to be gained by staying one more night aloft," said Slavsky. "This is a tough, rigorous journey for him and you have to be at your best when landing."

The flight crew said Fossett also broke the world balloon distance record of 5,208 nautical miles but appeared too exhausted to make much of the feat.

"He's very laid back about it," said flight manager Alan Noble. "When he crossed the coast he said 'I've flown the Pacific. I'm over Canada.' No whoopee or anything like that."

After seven events, Russia

## Snowboarding takes stage in Winter University Games

JACA, Spain (AP) — It was snowboarding's biggest day on the world sports stage Tuesday at the Winter University Games. In the medal count, a gold in cross-country kept Russia ahead after seven events.

France picked up the second of three gold medals on offer Tuesday with Stephane Aubeonnet's victory in the men's downhill. French skiers won silver and bronze in Monday's women's downhill.

After seven events, Russia

has four medals, including three golds. Japan has one gold and four overall. France has one gold and a total of three, and the United States has a gold and silver.

Snowboarding, a demonstration sport that aspires to make it to the Olympics, previewed here with U.S. men and women winning three of the six top places. Half of the 16 boarders entered in the men's and women's field were Americans.

"We absolutely proved it

could be an Olympic sport," said Jeff Greenwood, the winner in men's parallel slalom. "I'd love to be in the 1998 games in Nagano, Japan."

American Rob Kingwill took third and second went to Italy's Thomas Mosner. Switzerland's Christine Gutter won the women's event.

The competition in this Spanish ski resort offered the opening sport's first bow in an international multi-sports event.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dead Iraqis 'prove' Iraq holds no POWs

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi government on Wednesday said the discovery of the bodies of 3,000 Iraqis killed in the 1980-1988 war supports its claim that no Iranian prisoner of war (POW) is still held in Iraq. "The discovery of the remains of the Iraqis proves beyond any doubt what Iraq has said and the lack of truth in the Iranian officials' claims," an Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman told the official Iraqi News Agency INA. Iran on Sunday held mass funerals for 3,000 soldiers whose bodies were found on the former battlefields of southwestern Iran. Tehran says more than 30,000 are still missing, soldiers and civilians, and claims that thousands are still alive and held by Iraq. Baghdad on the other hand denies detaining any prisoner and accuses Iran of raising the issue to avoid disclosing how many casualties it suffered during the war.

## Comedian Mohammad Reda dies of heart attack

CAIRO (AP) — Comedian Mohammed Reda, famous for his roles as a simple and kind Egyptian peasant in hundreds of films and plays, died of a heart attack Tuesday night. He was 74. Reda, whose ample girth was part of his act, was giving an interview to a local radio station at his home when he died. Millions of Egyptians have watched him daily during the Holy Month of Ramadan in the successful television series "Living Next Door." On Tuesday morning, he finished filming the last episode of the series which will run until the end of the month. Reda played roles in more than 300 films, 100 plays and 70 television series. He will be buried Wednesday.

## Ten people drown in Gulf storm

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ten people drowned when a boat transporting 7,000 bags of rice capsized in stormy Gulf waters off the Iranian coast, newspapers reported here Wednesday. The boat's sole survivor, Yusef Dezagani, told newspapers that the fan in the cargo boat's engine had also broken as it steamed Monday through rough waters to Iran from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Two of the bodies have so far been retrieved and the search continues around the area where the accident occurred near Bandar Lenge port in Hormozgan province, the papers said. The nationalities of the victims or the boat was not given.

## Suharto pledges to help Libya

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian President Suharto, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), on Wednesday pledged to work for the lifting of the U.N. air embargo on Libya since 1992. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said, Mr. Alatas said Mr. Suharto told visiting Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Muntashir that Jakarta "will do its utmost in the U.N. Security Council when the matter of the sanction of Libya comes for review." Indonesia recently joined the U.N. Security Council as a non-permanent member and leads the NAM caucus in the powerful world body. Speaking after accompanying Mr. Muntashir to a courtesy call on Suharto, Alatas told journalists that his Libyan counterpart had asked the NAM chairman to help get the sanctions on Libya lifted.

## Israeli settler to sue author Oz

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Leading Israeli author Amos Oz is facing a libel battle after accusing a former far-right deputy from Kiryat Arba of having an "appetite for vengeance." Guelia Cohen, who lost her seat in the 1992 elections, has vowed to sue unless the left-wing writer apologises. The Yediot Aharonot newspaper published the Oz article last week to coincide with the first anniversary of the Hebron mosque massacre by settler Baruch Goldstein, who also lived in Kiryat Arba. "A fiery woman from Kiryat Arba, a former member of parliament, well understands the appetite for vengeance and is partner to it, and she has no problem, moral or otherwise with the fact that vengeance manifests itself in the murder of innocents," Mr. Oz wrote. Ms. Cohen was not named but is the only former deputy in the settlement and is well-known in Israel. "He defamed me. It is time to knock him off his pedestal," Ms. Cohen said. "He is constantly attacking settlers," Mr. Oz, a supporter of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, has not responded.

## Kuwaitis donate \$100 million for defence

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis have donated \$30 million (dinars \$100 million) to pay for allied support during a border standoff with Iraq in October, a government minister said in remarks published on Wednesday. Social Affairs Minister Ahmad Al Kulaib said a campaign for voluntary donations to a special defence fund was continuing and many firms had expressed a desire to contribute, the English language Arab Times reported. Western forces rushed to the region when Iraq, which occupied Kuwait for seven months in 1990-91, deployed troops near the border for 10 days in early October. Diplomats estimated the cost of the buildup by American, French, British and Gulf Arab air, land and naval forces at around \$500 million, of which Kuwait is paying half. Most of the rest is to be paid by the oil state's Gulf Arab allies.

## Israel cracks down on die-hard husbands

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament has passed legislation to punish men who refuse to divorce their wives. Judaism gives the husband the final say, but now civil courts have been a battery of sanctions to help women who want to end their marriage. They include taking away cheque-books, passports and driving licences, preventing the husband from running a business or occupying public positions. If all that fails, the courts will be able to jail husbands for up to 10 years. Left-wing Meretz Party deputy Dedi Zucker said the new law on divorce, passed Tuesday night, "modernised legislation that is 1,000 years old." The bill was presented after rabbis had kept a husband in jail for 32 years for refusing to grant his wife a divorce. Yihye Avraham was the longest-serving prisoner in Israel when he died last December.

## Smugglers face whip under new Iran law

TEHRAN (AFP) — Smugglers can be punished with 74 lashes of the whip as well as hefty fines under a new Iranian law aimed at curbing the outflow of foreign currency. Abrar newspaper said smugglers of "unauthorised goods" such as alcohol or satellite dishes would be jailed for up to two years. Smuggling — mainly from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates — has been flourishing since Iran, hit by a foreign debt of more than \$30 billion cut back on imports to stem the outflow of foreign currency. Illegal imports are costing the government between three billion to five billion dollars a year, against around \$10 billion in legal imports last year, according to official estimates. The daily Iran News on Sunday questioned the efficacy of the new anti-smuggling law, saying it did not address the root of the problem. "Smuggling is pitifully rampant in Iran... due to the absence of proper economic and industrial mechanisms which could meet domestic demand for goods," the English-language daily said.

## Gaza police defuse old mines

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police on Wednesday defused scores of mines left over in Gaza after the 1967 Middle East war. Major General Abdul Razek Al Majayda, head of Gaza's general security forces, said 105 mines were found a day earlier around Muwas in southern Gaza, and defused. He said mines throughout Gaza dated back to the wars between Egypt and Israel and were abandoned when the Egyptians retreated in 1967.



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday hosted at Basman Palace an iftar in honour of tribal leaders and representatives of public and private sectors in Balqa Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, the King's advisor Mohammad Rasoul Al Kilani, Royal Court Imam Ahmad Helayel and Balqa Governor Eid Al Qataneh. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb prayers together (Petra photo)

## Ekeus holds lengthy meetings in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus held more talks here Wednesday with Iraq's military industrialisation chief, General Amer Mohammad Rashid, on missing data from Baghdad's secret weapons programme.

"We have talks. We have not concluded them yet," Mr. Ekeus told reporters on the fourth day of a mission which could pave the way to a lifting of the oil embargo against Iraq.

Mr. Ekeus held nine hours of negotiations on Tuesday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Gen. Rashid, and later met separately with Mr. Aziz, who is in charge of relations with the United Nations.

He also met the Soviet ambassador, Nikolai Kartozov, the same day. "I was kindly invited by the Russian ambassador. We discussed the situation," said Mr. Ekeus, who is to visit Moscow on Feb. 28.

The Swedish diplomat has said he would leave Baghdad on Thursday.

A spokesman for Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission on Disarmament (UNSCOM), has said Baghdad was proving "very cooperative" on providing the United Nations with information on its weapons programmes.

Mr. Ekeus has visited the commission's Baghdad centre for long-term monitoring of military sites which he set up during his last visit here in October.

## Somali warlords sign deal; U.N. convoy shot up

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's two most powerful warlords signed an 11th-hour agreement to suspend hostilities in Mogadishu, hours before two people were killed and four injured when a U.N. convoy came under fire Wednesday.

Early Wednesday, as Somalis celebrated the prospect of peace in this battered capital, militiamen shot up a U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) convoy near the U.N.-held airport, killing the Somali driver of one vehicle and a Somali UNDP guard and wounding a Canadian security officer and three other Somali guards.

The UNDP in Nairobi said the convoy had been caught in crossfire in a battle between rival militias.

The pact, if it holds, will avert battles for control of key facilities in the capital after the last U.N. troops withdrew next week under the protection of a 10,000-strong task force from six nations.

Similar peace agreements in the past have all failed. The last 2,500 U.N. Pakistani peacekeepers leave on Tuesday, followed by the 3,100 U.S. and Italian marines who will come ashore from landing craft as a rearguard.

activities relatively unaffected, for sometime, and which could be considered for implementation if the worst came to the worst.

Referring to this section of the document, Mr. Saaf said: "This is the crux of the matter. Over the years, the funds and donations have never reached the requested budget. Therefore, every year all the (UNRWA) offices have to go through this exercise of contingency planning" in case the expenditure should exceed the awaited budget.

UNRWA, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, is funded by the U.N., which finances the costs of international core staff, while its operations are funded by voluntary donations. Voluntary donations are mainly extended to UNRWA through governments that are members of the U.N. Security Council.

The letter, dated Nov. 30, 1994, was signed by Mr. Saaf and addressed to the commissioner general, general cabinet at the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

Under a heading, "Financial Situation," the document read: "Please find below a list of cuts that would leave core

## Israel to offer compromise in NPT row

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will seek a compromise in Cairo on Thursday to a crisis over Israel's refusal to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the foreign ministry said.

"We are convinced that both sides will do their utmost to reduce tensions, which are negative for the peace process," spokesman Yigal Palmor told AFP.

"We will not sign the treaty but we will try to find a compromise acceptable to both countries."

Mr. Peres was to fly out Thursday morning for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa amid the worst crisis in relations since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"It is of course irritating us," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Radio of Egypt's demand that Israel sign the treaty. "We hope it will be possible to put an end to the misunderstanding."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Mr. Peres on Wednesday to finalise Israel's position, officials said, but gave no details.

Mr. Musa disclosed Monday that progress had been made in the dispute and that proposals had been put forward.

Mr. Mubarak has rallied Arab countries to his threat not to sign the treaty when it comes up for renewal in mid-April unless Israel joins.

Israel argues it has special "security" needs.

## Iran reactors

Nuclear reactors due to be built by Russia for Iran cannot be used to produce plutonium or build nuclear weapons, the Russian atomic energy ministry said Wednesday, responding to concern voiced by the head of an environmental watchdog group.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the ministry as saying the reactors were the same sort that the United States was preparing to deliver to North Korea.

Russia planned to build similar reactors in China and India, the ministry added.

Washington has expressed concern about the reactors to be built in Iran.

## Chechens announce revenge massacre

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chechen rebels intend to organise a revenge massacre of Russian soldiers on Thursday to mark the 51st anniversary of Stalin's mass deportation of Chechens, the news agency Interfax said here Wednesday.

It quoted the Chechen government's press spokesman, Movlady Udogov, as saying that a national congress of the Chechen people decided to organise a "St. Bartholomew's Day massacre" of Russian soldiers on Thursday.

This was a reference to the slaughter of thousands of French Protestants by Catholics on Aug. 24, 1572. The Chechen variant will be called a "day of national retribution," Mr. Udogov said.

Interfax said the congress was held at Kurchaloi, 40 kilometres southeast of Grozny, and attended by 700 delegates from around the country including the military and clergy.

Udogov added that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, addressing the conference, called for an embargo on all foreign loans to Moscow on the grounds that the money would be used to rearm Russia and relaunch Russian imperialism.

On Feb. 23, 1944, some 400,000 Chechens were loaded into cattle trucks at the orders of Joseph Stalin and hauled off to remote Siberia and Kazakhstan, as punishment for allegedly collaborating with Nazi Germany.

many.

The Chechens spent 13 years in exile, in special population zones they were forbidden to leave. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev let them return home in 1957 but they were not allowed to commemorate the affair until 1992.

The first official day of mourning was organised in 1992 by Mr. Dudayev, shortly after he staged Chechenya's unilateral secession from Russia.

After Russian troops invaded the territory last December and eventually destroyed its capital, Grozny, Chechens accused Moscow of carrying out "the second extermination" of their people.

During his address Wednesday, Mr. Dudayev said Chechenya had all the resources to defend "life, liberty and independence."

He criticised the international community for failing to exert enough pressure on the Kremlin to make the Russian military stop its "campaign of bloodshed and new genocide" against the Chechen people.

Mr. Dudayev appealed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to refuse a \$6.3 billion loan to Russia.

An IMF team was due to Moscow on Thursday to resume negotiations for the loan, but Mr. Dudayev said the fund would bear responsibility for "rearming the Russian army" and for encouraging Russian imperialism if it extended the loan.

leaders.

He had returned to Kabul from the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, early on Wednesday after briefing some Afghan leaders slated to take part in the interim mechanism.

Ahmad Shah Masood, the strong man of President Rabbani's camp, appears to be the immediate beneficiary of the failure of the U.N. peace plan Wednesday.

Mr. Masood, the hero of the 1980-90 war against the Soviets and feared as a strategist, quickly understood that an entirely new scenario was created by the arrival of the Taliban last week at the gates of the capital.

At the beginning of the past week, Mr. Masood insisted on speeding up the U.N. peace plan for a ruling council of 30 to replace Mr. Rabbani.

Then Mr. Masood suddenly hardened his position, throwing up obstacles to the plan and forcing Mr. Mestiri, to suspend the transfer of power until the hypothetical date of March 21, which coincides with the beginning of the Afghan new year.

Mr. Masood, whose forces control most of the capital, has come away with three indisputable gains:

— Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, his main adversary who bombed Kabul for three years, keeping alive a civil war which killed more than 20,000 people, has abandoned his positions in the south of Kabul.

— The front line, which was at the gates of Kabul 10 days ago, has receded to 15 kilometres outside the city.

— Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Masood's political support, has remained in power, with the United Nations' blessing.

He felt that the document had caused particular concern because it included possible cuts in the educational programme which is currently undergoing a management study.

But, he said, "the agency conducts many management studies because we are dealing with public money and we have to show that the money is being used well."

Mr. Saaf is serving his third term here with UNRWA. The first was as deputy director between 1981 and 1985. He then returned as director in 1986, a post which he held until 1990 and finally took up the position of director a second time in September 1994.

Mr. Saaf told the Jordan Times that the annual major donor meeting in Amman will be in the presence of UNRWA Commissioner

## Horried surgeon finds can of worms

CAIRO (AFP) — Doctors found about 250 worms in the belly of an eight-year-old Egyptian boy when they operated on him for stomach-ache, the Al-Masara newspaper reported. The child's mother fainting when the surgeon opened up the boy and the horrified pair saw 25-centimetre (10 inches) worms crawling out of his stomach, the paper said, publishing photos to back up its story. Doctors said the worms had come from eating unwashed vegetables and had left the boy with chronic stomach pains for two years.

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## China unveils gold platinum Deng watch

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese factory has produced the most expensive item yet to bear the face of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, a gold, diamond and platinum watch costing up to 11,300 yuan (\$1,340). The China News Service said Wednesday that proceeds from sales would go to the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped. It said a factory in Guangzhou in the south, where the timepiece was unveiled at a ceremony attended by local leaders, had produced 8,000 of the watches, with the men's model selling for 11,300 yuan and the women's for 10,800 yuan (\$1,280). The watch, issued to commemorate 15 years of the open-door and reform policy launched by Mr. Deng, carries a platinum engraving of the 90-year-old leader on its face and also uses 18-carat gold and diamonds, it said. The chairman of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped is Deng Pufang, the handicapped son of Deng Xiaoping. The younger Deng approved the design, the agency added.

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